WASHTENAW

JEWISH NEWS

December 2008/January 2009 Kislev/Tevet/Shevat 5769 Volume XXXIII: Number 4 FREE

Jewish Federation to honor Steve and Joyce Gerber at Main Event

Jeffrey Lazor, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor will recognize the volunteer achievements of Steve and Joyce Gerber at this year's Main Event on December 11. Steve and Joyce have worked on behalf of the Jewish community of Greater Ann Arbor for more than 25 years and have contributed positively to every facet of community life.

Building and sustaining the community comes as second nature to the Gerbers. In addition to being active campaign solicitors on behalf of UJA and the Federation, Joyce has co-chaired Super Sunday for five years, co-chaired Jewish Family Services' Friends of the Family Committee, and serves as a volunteer for the University Musical Society, Performance Network, Detroit Opera House, Purple Rose Theater, and many more. As one of the founding members of the Soviet Jewry Committee in the 1970's, Joyce understands the importance of reaching out and aiding those in need. "Helping and caring about others is what makes us human and humane," remarked Joyce.

Steve and Joyce Gerber

Steve Gerber is the consummate volunteer taking on leadership roles in almost every Jewish agency in Greater Ann Arbor, and many more in the general community. His volunteer resume, which is two pages long, reads as a community's volunteer wish list. "Steve and Joyce Gerber are everything a community can expect of their volunteers. They give of their own resources for the community, they give of their time to help the community, they inspire others to give of themselves and they spread themselves among many worthy causes. All of Ann Arbor benefits from having Steve and Joyce as part of the community," stated David Shtulman, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor.

Steve has worked with the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, Jewish Family Services (he currently serves as board president), Eastern Michigan University Hillel, the Jewish Community Center, Hebrew Day School, and University of Michigan Hillel. Steve also volunteers for Glacier Hills, with Joyce for Arbor Hospice and Hospice of Michigan, as well as other local non-profits in the Greater Ann Arbor area. "We should all strive to help others and give of ourselves—not until it hurts, but until it feels good," said Steve.

The Main Event, which draws in over 600 community members every year, is a fitting place to showcase our community's most dedicated volunteers. "Steve and Joyce are so important to the success of our communal agencies. Honoring them at the Main Event, our community's largest program, is befitting of their accomplishments and hopefully will move others into action," remarked Judie Lax, a 2008 Main Event co-chair.

In between their volunteer commitments, Steve and Joyce managed to have successful careers, have been married for 42 years, and have two children and one grandson. ■

Social justice approach to kashrut

Ruth Kraut, special to the WJN

Following well-publicized labor and environmental violations at a kosher meat packing plant in Postville, Iowa, many Jews have asked the question, "What does kosher really mean? Can kashrut address social and environmental concerns?" On December 7 Rabbi Morris Allen will be speaking on "Heksher Tzedek: A Social Justice Approach to Kashrut." The talk will be held at Beth Israel Congregation (2000 Washtenaw Ave.), at 7:45 p.m. Rabbi Allen's visit is co-sponsored by Beth Israel Congregation, the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, Temple Beth Emeth, and the University of Michigan Hillel.

Rabbi Allen Brit Tze

Heksher Tzedek is a new kind of "justice certification" for kosher foods, which will certify that the production of these foods meets specific health, safety, environmental, labor, and corporate transparency guidelines. *Heksher Tzedek* is a shared effort between the Rabbinical Assembly and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. *Heksher Tzedek* was recently endorsed by the Reform Movement's Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Rabbi Morris J. Allen has served as the first spiritual leader of the Beth Jacob Congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota since August of 1986. In addition to his responsibilities at Beth Jacob, Rabbi Allen is involved in numerous local and national initiatives on behalf of a wide variety of causes and issues. He is currently leading the Conservative movement's work on producing a *Hekhsher Tzedek* standard. He has been involved with Minneapolis-based Jewish Community Action and their work on behalf of non-documented workers, particularly in the Hispanic community. Rabbi Allen was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1984, and received his bachelor's and master's degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Rabbi Allen writes, "We should not be eating food that has been produced in a way that has denied the dignity of the labor! We should not be more concerned about the smoothness of a cow's lung than we are about the safety of a worker's hand." ■

Chanukah Wonderland

Chana Kroll, special to the WJN

This winter, area youth (and the young at heart), will have a chance to step back in time and learn the ancient art of hand-pressing olive oil, then step into the futuristic world of a Chanukah multimedia center, or enjoy some complimentary *sufganiot* (jelly doughnuts) and traditional latkes at Chabad of Ann Arbor's Chanukah Wonderland. The Chanukah Wonderland will take place in the heart of Ann Arbor's downtown area—making it a convenient stop after a day of work or shopping, or as part of a family night out. A relaxed fairground-style arrangement creates an inviting place to simply hang out and enjoy the company of family and friends. A variety of shops and food vendors will be on hand, although the Chanukah Wonderland is much more than just a place to enjoy a shopping excursion in a Jewish atmosphere.

Through activities, games, and shows that educate while they entertain, the Wonderland brings Chanukah to life. Some of the more popular activities returning from last year's Wonderland include a Maccabee movie theater showing Chanukah- and Jewish-themed films, a Chanukah Lego menorah contest, and Chanukah sand art. Children and adults alike can test their culinary skills by making *sufganiot*, or decorating Chanukah cookies.

There will be a public menorah lighting at the Chanukah Wonderland each evening at 5:45 p.m. There will be a family program on December 24, with a Chinese dinner following the menorah lighting, children's activities, and adult discussions. Hot dogs and other foods will be on sale other evenings.

Chabad has also added a few new attractions this year. Each day there will be a different Chanukah-themed show. A Chanukah balloon show, Dreidel Magic, Chanukah in Lego Land, Chanukah in Chocolate Land, and latke-making are some of the shows already planned.

The Chanukah Wonderland will take place December 21–29, on the lower level of the Town Center building, 500 East Washington Street. Programs will run Sunday through Thursday, 11:30 a.m.–7 p.m.; Friday, 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.; and Saturday, 7–10 p.m. Admission is $2.50. ■

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Young JFS volunteer bridges cultural and generational gap

Laurie Barnett, special to the WJN

When David Schapiro started volunteering with Jewish Family Services for his bar mitzvah project, he never expected it to turn into a lasting mitzvah and life shaping experience. In keeping with the tradition of local youth, David sought out a project to fulfill the community service component of his bar mitzvah. David found a project as a Friendly Visitor and Language Partner with Abram and Sofia Dorfman, older adults resettled by JFS from the former Soviet Union. This project has turned into a meaningful, long-term relationship for the Dorfmans, David, and his family.

Now in the eleventh grade at Huron High School, David is one of Jewish Family Services' long-time volunteers. As David says, "I started volunteering as a bar mitzvah project, but once I got to know them it was really enjoyable. My grandparents live in South Africa, so I got to know them like they were my grandparents. Now it's a weekly thing I can look forward to. We help each other." Mr. Dorfman's long and distinguished career as a physicist has further improved David's understanding of physics. In return, David has helped Mr. Dorfman with the editing of a book on physics that he is writing.

David Shapiro with Abram and Sofia

David and the Dorfmans share many activities together, from discussing politics to cooking. They enjoy introducing each other to recipes, sharing their different cultures through cooking, and eating. David realizes that he learns a great deal from hearing their stories, and that although some are really sad, they are important because they are not "just what history teaches." There is also a wonderful intergenerational component to their discussions. David notes the value of this experience, saying "we get to see things from different viewpoints; it's nice to see how different generations think." He advises other teens thinking about volunteering with older adults to realize that "at first you'll think there's no way we can relate, but then you'll see you can, but maybe in different ways." Volunteering with JFS has not only provided a great source of emotional growth to David as a young person, but has also led to deeper levels of community service and involvement. When visiting his grandparents in South Africa, David volunteers at a Jewish sheltered employment center for the disabled. David was also a camp counselor at Camp Raanana this past summer, and values his referral from Jewish Family Services to the camp.

Jewish Family Services applauds David not only for serving as a valuable companion to the Dorfmans, but for offering his insight into the value of volunteering for people of all ages. ■

Intergenerational Chanukah party at JCC

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

On Thursday, December 18, from 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., the JCC Early Childhood Center will hold its annual Intergenerational Chanukah party. This year, the children of the preschool would like to invite members of the community to share their Chanukah memories with them, by bringing in photographs of Chanukah celebrations and the stories behind them. The children will be experiencing many different kinds of *Chanukiot*, using them as inspiration for their own Chanukah creations. Community members are invited to bring their Chanukah photos and treasures to the center to show the children and join the children for Chanukah singing, dancing, and lunch. For more information, call the ECC at 971-0990, or email ndeyoung@umich.edu

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Special thanks
To Ethel Ellis and Betty Hammond

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The deadline for the February issue of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* is Friday, January 7.
Publication date: Wednesday, January 28.
Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

Jewish magazine editor, a "reluctant atheist," to speak

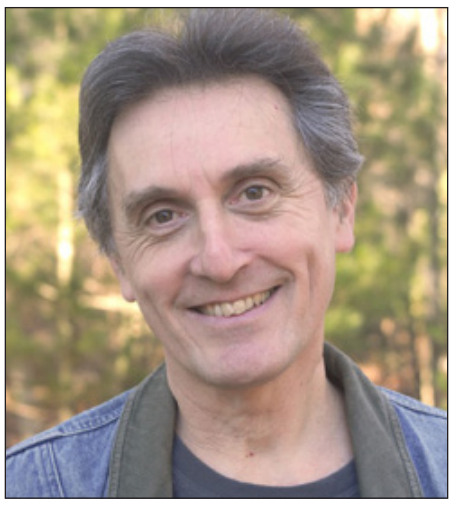
Martha Kransdorft, special to the WJN

For someone who doesn't believe in God," says the *Jewish Literary Review*, "Lawrence Bush sure knows a lot about religion."

Bush will introduce his new book, *Waiting for God: The Spiritual Explorations of a Reluctant Atheist*, at the Jewish Cultural Society Sunday Schmooze on December 7 at 10 a.m..

The evening before, the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah will host a talk by Bush on "Jewish Economic Philosophy and the Spirituality of Interconnection," with a special focus on Chanukah as a time for heightened *tzedakah* (sharing one's wealth). Everyone is welcome to attend this program, which begins at 6 p.m. with a brief *havdalah* service and a potluck vegetarian supper. Childcare will be available during the talk. Those in need of childcare, or in need of additional information on the event, should leave a message at 663-7933.

Lawrence Bush has been a creative force in American Jewish life as a writer, visual artist, and magazine editor for nearly three decades. He edits *Jewish Currents*, a 63-year-old magazine now published by the Workmen's



Lawrence Bush

Circle, and writes their "Religion and Skepticism" column. Bush served for thirteen years as the founding editor of the magazine of the Reconstructionist movement, *Reconstructionism Today*, and was a speechwriter for a dozen years for Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, the late leader of Reform Judaism in America. His essays, fiction, and artwork have appeared in the *New York Times, Village Voice, MAD magazine, Tikkun, Reform Judaism*, and numerous other publications. He is also the creator of the Sholem Aleichem Bobblehead Doll and other Jewish visual artworks, some of which will be on display at both events.

Waiting for God is a vivid exploration of the experiences that led to a massive religious "comeback" in the baby-boom generation and subsequent generations during the past four decades. Among the factors Bush explores are psychedelic drug use, the Bomb, the environmental crisis, and a shift in the popular perception of science as a "Frankenstein" rather than a "Promethean" enterprise. Bush tells this story from a deeply personal, self-examining perspective that includes consideration of the limits and pitfalls of atheism. "Bush has a reputation for independent and unpretentious thought and dialog," wrote *Library Journal*. "Here, he continues that tradition." This event is free and open to the public; for additional information call 975-9872 ■

Chaverim B'Shirim presents music of Jerry Herman

Marilyn Krimm, special to the WJN

This month Chaverim B'Shirim will offer a performance joyfully immersed in the words and music of famed Broadway composer/lyricist Jerry Herman. Herman was born in Jersey City, but spent his summers at Stissing Lake Camp in the Berkshires, where his parents managed operations. This is where Herman became involved in musical productions, encouraged by American composer Frank Loesser. In 1960 Herman made his Broadway debut with the revue *From A to Z*, which included contributions from Woody Allen and Fred Ebb. It ran for two years. A producer who had seen his work invited Herman to write a score for a show about the founding of Israel. The result was *Milk and Honey* starring Molly Picon, which also ran for almost two years. Herman's *Hello Dolly* became the longest running musical for its time and swept the Tony Awards in 1964. His next hit was *Mame* (1966), followed by his mega-hit, *La Cage aux Folles*, which won another Tony Award. Each of these shows ran over 1,500 performances.

Chaverim B'Shirim is presenting selections from all these shows on December 7 at 3 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. A donation of $5 is requested from attendees.

Jerry Herman wth Angela Landsbury and Carol Channing

Keep being a parent when your child stops being a child

Lisa Keefauver, special to the WJN

What do you do when what you've always done with your child just doesn't work anymore? Two local experts address that question at a session for parents of teens on Wednesday, December 10, from 7–9 p.m., at the Morris Lawrence Building on the campus of Washtenaw Community College.

Nic Cooper, Ed.D, and Rick McCoy, M.A., will present a framework for understanding teens' challenging behaviors and the changing role of parents. Among other concerns, they will discuss how to balance support for growing independence with safety. They will also offer a number of tools for improving the parent-teen relationship. Their talk is appropriate for guardians and other adults involved in the life of a teen.

Nic Cooper, Ed.D,

Rick McCoy, M.A.

Cooper and McCoy have over 30 years of experience working with adolescents in school and treatment center settings. They offer trainings and workshops to schools and businesses on issues ranging from chemical dependency to communication and conflict resolution.

This program is offered by Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County and co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, Beth Israel Congregation, and the Corner Health Center. The evening is free, but pre-registration is requested. For more information, or to register, call JFS at 769-0209.

Latkes and Vodkas 2008

Martha Young, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Hadassah chapter is hosting Latkes and Vodkas 2008, a reprise of their popular Chanukah celebration. This year's event is at Mediterrano Restaurant on Saturday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m. Participants will sample different flavors of vodkas, pairing them with appetizers from the Mediterrano kitchen, and schmoozing with new and old friends. Non-alcoholic drinks will also be available. Friends and families are all invited (Hadassah members and non-members alike).

The fee is $30 per person, and is not a fundraiser. Due to space limitations, Latkes and Vodkas 2008 can only accommodate the first 50 paid reservations. Babysitting subsidies are also available. Contact Martha Young for more information, 769-7523, or youngmarth@comcast.net.

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Merrill Poliner, special to the WJN

December 2008

Tuesdays

11 a.m.—Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10.
Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3 per person.
1 p.m.—Games and Activities. Join in for a variety of games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects; and other card games.
1 p.m.—Special Tuesday events (see below for details).
1:30 p.m.—Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group). Open to the public as well as University of Michigan faculty, staff, and students, all ages and levels welcome. Beanster's Café, ground floor, Michigan League. Free. For more information, call 936-2367.

Thursdays

10 a.m.—Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10.
11 a.m.—Current Events with Heather Dombey. A Jewish perspective on this week's news. Bring items of interest for group discussion.
Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3 per person.
1 p.m. —Thursday Special Events and Presentations (see below for details).
2:15 p.m.—Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for current book.

Fridays

December 5, 12, 19, 26
1:30 p.m.—Yiddish Reading Group meets at the Jewish Community Center. Call Ray Juni for additional information at 761-2765.

Tuesday special events

December 2—Blood Pressure Clinic,
1 p.m.—A registered nurse from Care Response will take blood pressures, record them and address any questions. Free. (This event will be repeated the first Tuesday of each month.)

Thursday special events and presentations

December 4: Birthdays and Rabbi Dobrusin
12:30 p.m.—Birthday celebration for all with December birthdays. Families and friends are invited for lunch and birthday cake.
1 p.m.—Rabbi Robert Dobrusin from Beth Israel Congregation will join SPICE for a presentation and discussion.
December 11: Songs from Tin Pan Alley
12:30 p.m.—Allison Pollock, MSW, Jewish Family Services geriatric social worker will be available for discussion, questions and assistance.
1 p.m. —The Happiness Boys, Don Devine and David Owens are proud to be following in the footsteps of the original Happiness Boys, Billy Jones and Ernest Hare, the famous Vaudeville duo of the 1920s and 30s.
December 18: Chanukah Celebration.
Note holiday changes to schedule
10:30 a.m.—Intergenerational Chanukah celebration. The children of the Early Childhood Center will perform a Chanukah play followed by a discussion of Chanukah traditions and a Chanukah craft project. Bring a menorah, dreidel or picture of a past Chanukah celebration to discuss with the children.
11:30 a.m.—Holiday Lunch including potato latke.
12:30 p.m.—Musical program by singer and pianist Rachel Kis.
December 25: The JCC is closed.

January 2009

Tuesdays

11 a.m.—Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10.
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Tuesday special events

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Thursday special events and presentations

Thursday, January 8: Birthdays and Kelsey Museum Preview
12:30 p.m.—Birthday celebration for all with January birthdays. Families and friends are invited for lunch and birthday cake.
1 p.m.—Suzanne Davis and Claudia Camello, conservators at the U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, offers a presentation on the research and collections at the museum.
Thursday, January 15: Israeli Political Update
12:30 p.m.—Allison Pollock, MSW, Jewish Family Services geriatric social worker will be available for discussion, questions, and assistance.
1 p.m.—Daniel Zaken, Israel journalist and U-M Wallace Fellow, discusses current Israeli politics.
Thursday, January 22: Winter Preparedness
1 p.m.—Speaker from the Washtenaw County Red Cross discusses winter preparedness.
Thursday, January 29: Musical Presentation
1 p.m.—Mario Jonette, local musician by way of Romania and other European countries, performs classical music, popular standards, and jazz on the piano.

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Vera Adler Endowment supports Keshet Hebrew program

David Shtulman, special to the WJN

When Vera Adler passed away in September, her daughter, Dorit Adler, and granddaughter, Michelle Silver, sought a meaningful way to honor her memory.

Born in Czechoslovakia, Vera, her parents, and two siblings moved to Novi Sad, in the former Yugoslavia, where she met and married Ted (Tibor), and with whom she fled the Nazis. Hidden by non-Jews in a small village in the Abruzzi mountains of Italy, they eventually made their way to Palestine, reuniting with other family members who had also escaped Nazi Europe, and ultimately celebrating the establishment of the State of Israel, where Dorit was born.

Moving to Los Angeles in the late 1950s, Ted and Vera sent Dorit to a Hebrew day school to learn Hebrew and the fundamentals of Judaism, essential parts of their own lives. They were thrilled to see that tradition continue when their granddaughter, Michelle, was enrolled in the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor.

While both Ted and Vera were multilingual, Vera had a special gift for languages and was fluent in Czech, German, Serbian, Hungarian, Hebrew, Italian, French, and English. Therefore, when Dorit and Michelle thought about how to honor Vera's memory, the Keshet Hebrew language program, sponsored by the Jewish Federation to make Hebrew language instruction available to all Ann Arbor teens, seemed ideal. It is a program in which Michelle has been enrolled throughout high school, enabling her to maintain and further build her Hebrew l anguage skills.

Vera Adler and Michelle Silver (1999)

The Vera Adler Memorial Endowment Fund for the Keshet Ann Arbor Hebrew Program, established in the Jewish Community Foundation, will provide annual distributions to the Keshet program in perpetuity. This fund honors not only Vera Adler's name but also her love of languages and belief in the importance of Jewish children learning Hebrew.

Contributions to the Vera Adler Memorial Endowment Fund are welcome and can be made through the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor at 2939 Birch Hollow Drive or by calling 677-0100.

The Jewish Community Foundation welcomes inquiries about how it can serve as a vehicle for philanthropic, planned giving, or estate planning needs. For information, contact David Shtulman at 677-0100 or david@jewishannarbor.org. ■

JFS and Home Instead team up to give seniors a lift

Carol Lessure, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County will enhance and extend its Access Project, which provides transportation services to older adults and disabled individuals within Washtenaw County. This program is funded in part by a $10,000 grant from the Home Instead Senior Care Foundation.

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County is one of fifteen organizations awarded grant funding from the Home Instead Senior Care Foundation in 2008. "We are so grateful for the generous support of the Home Instead Senior Care Foundation. These funds will provide crucial support allowing us to respond to the growing demand for services from older adults who seek affordable transportation and greater access to community services. Transportation is an essential component of the aging-in-place process," stated Anya Abramzon, JFS executive director. "JFS will use these funds to build greater responsiveness and coordination for our program."

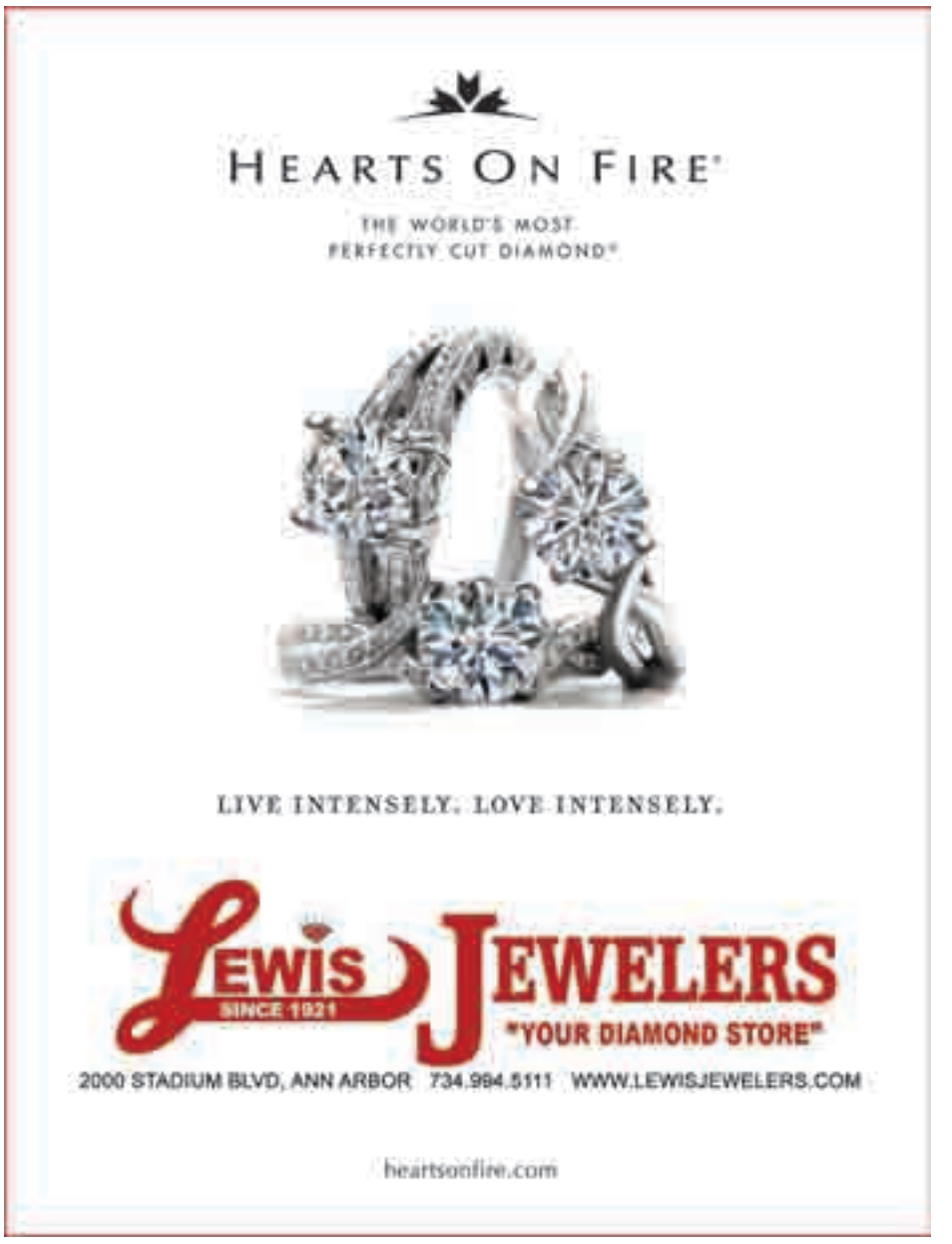
The JFS Access Project is made possible by a grant from the Home Instead Senior Care Foundation. "Our missions are very similar to Jewish Family Services, as we both help improve the quality of life for older adults," said Paul Hogan, executive director of the foundation. "We are pleased to be able to provide financial support to JFS of Washtenaw County for the advocacy, safety, and well-being of seniors," Hogan said.

Last year, JFS provided over 535 roundtrip rides to area seniors, helping them with medical care, essential shopping, and social outings. "These outings are critical to the well-being and mental health of our older adults," notes Abramzon.

The agency has worked closely with local Home Instead Senior Care franchisee, Greg Jagst, on its programs and services that support older adults who live independently.

In 1994, Lori and Paul Hogan founded Home Instead Senior Care, an international company of independently owned and operated franchises, to provide non-medical care for seniors. As a means to further enhance the lives of older adults, going above and beyond the scope of this organization, the Home Instead Senior Care Foundation was founded in 2003. The Home Instead Senior Care Foundation has awarded 67 grants throughout the United States and Canada since 2004. To learn more about The Foundation, visit www.homeinsteadseniorcarefoundation.org.

Jewish Family Services has provided care management and support to older adults in Washtenaw County since 1993. JFS provides essential services to strengthen and enhance the quality of life for all people in Washtenaw County. JFS CareVan transportation services also receives support from the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, local philanthropist Ambassador Ron Weiser and his wife Eileen, and the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. Visit www.jfsannarbor.org for more information. ■



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This event is co-sponsored by the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah.
Funding provided by the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County.

January's Kabbalat Shabbat discussion: Hevre Kadisha, "holy burial"

Aura Ahuvia, special to the WJN

As a Lansing Jewish woman lay dying of a brain tumor many years ago, she did some research, and discovered the power and beauty of *Hevre Kadisha* rituals. Before her death, she asked her friend for the kind of loving care and preparation that a *Hevre Kadisha* provides. Out of that experience her friend, Dr. Elizabeth Seagull of Lansing, helped found a *Hevre Kadisha,* or "holy burial," Society, for her Jewish community. It has been going strong ever since.

Seagull will be in Ann Arbor to discuss Jewish traditions and rituals around death, bereavement, burial, and specifically about what a *Hevre Kadisha* does, as the featured speaker for the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah's Kabbalat Shabbat Discussion Friday, January 12, from 6:15–7:45 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. The Reconstructionist Havurah's Kabbalat Shabbat Discussion is preceded by candle-lighting and a brief Kiddush. It concludes with a song and sometimes a prayer. All are welcome to attend; no RSVP to the discussion is necessary.

The conversation continues during a late dinner afterward, at which Dr. Seagull will discuss the nuts and bolts of starting a *Hevre Kadisha* in Ann Arbor. Dinner will be at Zanzibar Restaurant (216 South State St.), starting at 8 p.m., with reservations under the name "Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah." Ordering will be off the menu and paid for individually. To reserve a space at dinner RSVP by calling Aura Ahuvia, 975-9045, or emailing auraahuvia@comcast.net. RSVP deadline is Friday, December 5. For more information, check www. aarecon.org. ■

Judaism in Eastern Europe: Local professor finds revival of interest provokes strong reactions

Aura Ahuvia, special to the WJN

Stephanie Rowen

How would you react to seeing a pair of Star of David earrings on a non-Jewish, Polish college student majoring in Judaic Studies in Krakow, Poland? As University of Michigan School of Art and Design Assistant Professor Stephanie Rowden found, reactions vary widely, but are almost universally strong. Rowden discovered this while helping to create an art installation project at the Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow this past summer. The festival draws some 25,000 attendees over its nine days, most of whom are not Jewish.

"People have strong reactions to the idea of the revival of interest in Judaism in Eastern Europe," said Rowden. "Each day brought a new, surprising encounter." Rowden worked in collaboration with Assistant Professor Hannah Smotrich, also of U-M, and anthropologist Erica Lehrer, of Concordia University, Montreal. Interviewing hundreds of people and amassing over 25 hours of tape during the project, Rowden was able to explore questions about authenticity, whose festival was this, and who has the right to memory. "I wanted to create a space in which people could reflect on their encounters with Judaism in Poland at this time," she said.

One of the outcomes was an eight-minute audio essay that aired on public radio's *Studio 360* this past fall. Rowden will be sharing this tape, plus a slide presentation, when she discusses the installation project and its continuing effects at the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah's Kabbalat Shabbat Discussion on Friday, December 12, from 6:15–7:45 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. "My hope is that people won't end up thinking any one thing, but that they will have encountered something unexpected in this," she said of the upcoming presentation.

The Reconstructionist Havurah's Kabbalat Shabbat Discussion is preceded by candle lighting and a brief kiddush. It concludes with a song and sometimes a prayer. All are welcome to attend; no RSVP is necessary. Attendees often informally decide to go out for dinner and continue the discussion afterwards. For more information, visit www.aarecon.org, or call Aura Ahuvia at 975-9045. ■

BIC Chanukah bazaar set for December 7

Rachel Schreiber, special to the WJN

The Beth Israel Congregation Women's League will host a Chanukah Bazaar on Sunday, December 7 from 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m. This year's bazaar will include new events and vendors, in addition to the Women's League's own gift shop. The Women's League will also be assisted by Beth Israel's religious school students, who will sing and facilitate children's activities during the event.

In recognition of their continuing commitment to *Vahavata Lirayacha Kamoca*, ("love your neighbor as yourself," celebrating our commitment to our community), the Women's League will be collecting non-perishable food for SOS Community Services. SOS serves the entire Washtenaw County community by working to end homelessness. They offer assistance to families and individuals who are homeless or who are experiencing housing-related crises, including a large number of children. ■

Jewish politics in America: Historical perspectives, with Deborah Dash Moore

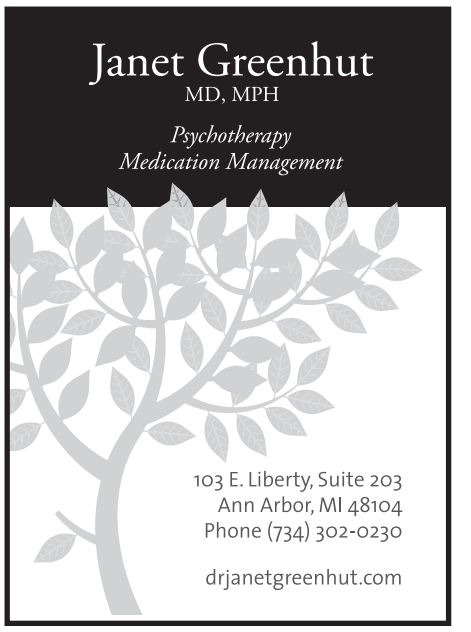
Ronnie Simon, special to the WJN

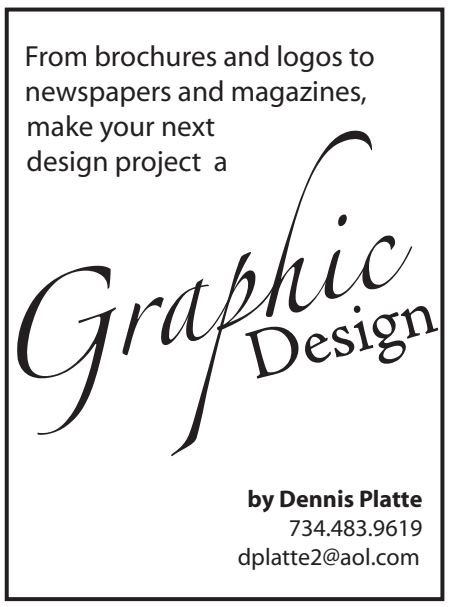
Everything we know in American Politics changed on November 4. The Jewish community in Florida and elsewhere played a role in this change. But what is the role of Jews in American politics? Are we just another ethnic group? Are we outsiders or insiders? What previous changes in American political life affected us, and what does the future hold? Deborah Dash Moore will address these issues as the scholar-in-residence at Temple Beth Emeth during two talks the weekend of January 23–25.

Deborah Dash Moore

Dash Moore is the director of the Frankel Center of Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan and a Frederick G.L. Huetwell Professor of History. She is the author of several major books, including *At Home in America: Second Generation New York Jews*—a look in to the creation of a unique new ethnic urban society from elements of Jewish and American culture blended by the children of immigrants—and *To the Golden Cities: Pursuing the American Jewish Dream in Miami and L. A.*, an examination of the types of communities and politics that flourish in rapidly growing cities, and of the Jews that chose to relocate to them after World War II. Her most recent work, *G.I. Jews: How World War II Changed a Generation*, is a chronicle of the experiences of fifteen young men as they confronted their identity issues as Jews and Americans while struggling with the reality of military service during World War II.

Dash Moore will offer a short talk on Friday evening, January 23, during the 7:30 p.m. Shabbat services, and a major teaching on Sunday evening, January 25 at 6 p.m. ■





The story of Masada

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

Whether you take the cable car, hike up the snake path, or use the Roman ramp, one of the highlights of a trip to Israel is a visit to Masada, the fortress-like mountain that looms over the Dead Sea and the surrounding desert.

A trip to Masada is a "must" for visitors to Israel for many different reasons, not the least of which is the stark beauty of the place. Standing on top of the mountain, surveying the emptiness of the wilderness, is truly an unforgettable experience. If you're fortunate, before you start to ascend, you might see ibex—the wild antelopes—or other desert animals wandering through the area. During the winter, you might catch a glimpse of green areas here and there near the *wadis* (dry river beds). The colors of the cliffs can be gorgeous. It is truly a beautiful spot.

But, as beautiful as the area is, it isn't the scenery that brings people here. For many of us, the archeological discoveries at Masada were our first introduction to the wonders of antiquities in Israel. The photographs we saw of the excavations were tantalizing and, even though there are more fascinating archeological sites in Israel (my opinion), the finds are staggering.

It is the story of Masada that pulls people out to this lonely outpost in the desert. Masada is the location of the "winter palace" of King Herod. But, it gained fame by the story of the Zealots who escaped Jerusalem before its destruction at the hands of the Romans and took refuge high on the hill, vowing that they would not be moved from the Holy Land.

According to the story popularized by the ancient historian Josephus, the Zealots held out on Masada until their conquest by the Romans was evident. They then chose to commit suicide rather than to surrender themselves to the hands of the Romans.

Masada

Many scholars question the veracity of that story but, whether it actually happened or not, the tale has woven its way into the consciousness of the Jewish people and particularly of Israelis.

And it is because of this story that I feel both humbled and unnerved by this fortress in the desert. The commitment of these individuals, their dedication to the land and to the people, and their pride truly humbles me; and each time I go to Masada, I marvel at the passion with which the story is told.

But I must admit that the story disturbs me as well. While our tradition considers martyrdom to be the "proper" choice under some circumstances, in order to glorify God or to avoid horrendous atrocities, we must be very careful indeed when we tell the story of Masada because suicide is not to be idealized.

This is especially important in these times when it seems that all of us, directly or indirectly, have been affected by the suicide of someone we know or someone we love. While it is easy to separate the experience of Masada from the suicide of today, we still must be careful of the words we use, the tone of our voice, the impact of our statements, if we celebrate the martyrdom of the Zealots at Masada. We must be very careful not to send the wrong message or misrepresent the fundamentally precious nature of life from the perspective of Jewish tradition.

When I am with a group on top of Masada, I make it a point to tell the Talmudic story, again perhaps at least partly a legend, of Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai. He faced the crisis of the impending destruction of the Temple in a different way than the Zealots did. According to the story, he was carried out of besieged Jerusalem in a coffin so that he could find his way to the Roman authorities and ask for a place to teach Torah in exchange for the willingness to abandon the city.

His action led to the development of Rabbinic Judaism, which became the "normative" Judaism of the time and continues to be the foundation of traditional Judaism today.

In many ways, Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai and his students were no less zealots than were those who held out on top of Masada. His story may have been less dramatic, but it kept him and his students and descendants alive to carry the values of Torah throughout the generations.

No one can deny the strong connection between our people, and the land of Israel, and actions of commitment and dedication taken by Jews throughout the ages; and certainly, actions taken by Israelis today are to be not only respected but cherished. Our connection with the land is such an important part of what it means to be a Jew.

But every time I stand at Masada, I wonder if perhaps we are too anxious to tell this story in such dramatic and stark terms that we, like the Zealots, place this connection with the land over every other value that we teach as a people. I believe we need more balance, and we can achieve that by making sure that we recognize and appreciate the dedication of Jews who find other paths to finding the meaning of our tradition, such as studying Torah, working for *tikkun olam*, or engaging in serious prayer and spiritual reflection.

Masada is a great place. It can't be missed, but it should leave us wrestling with questions rather than providing all of the answers. ■

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Activities at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Lisbeth Fried, Ph.D., lectures at Beth Israel on Intermarriage in Jewish Law

On Sunday, December 14, from 7:45–9:15 p.m. Lisbeth Fried, Ph.D., will present "Who Decided That Jews Can't Intermarry, Anyway?" at Beth Israel Congregation as part of Beth Israel's Current Topics in Jewish Studies Series. There is no charge for this program.

Lisbeth Fried, Ph.D.

In biblical times there was clearly no blanket prohibition about intermarriage. Moses married Zippora the Midianite and also a Cushite (Ethiopian) woman. According to the Torah, Jews can marry Midianites and Ethiopians. It is only forbidden to marry Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites (and maybe also Ammonites and Moabites).

If a general prohibition against intermarriage is not in the Torah, where does it come from, and when? This talk looks at the history of Jewish attitudes toward intermarriage in the Torah, in Ezra, and in post-biblical literature. The issue of matrilineal descent will also be touched on.

Lisbeth S. Fried is a visiting scholar at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies and the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan. She earned her doctorate in psychology from the University of Michigan in 1978, and her doctorate in Hebrew and Judaic studies from New York University in 2000. Since 2000 she has written *The Priest and the Great King: Temple-Palace Relations in the Persian Empire,* and more than forty articles, reviews, and encyclopedia entries on biblical and ancient Near Eastern religious studies. She is currently writing a two-volume commentary on Ezra-Nehemiah for the Eerdmans Critical Commentary Series, a book on Ezra in history and tradition, and is editing a volume of articles on the priority of First Esdras.

Monday Evening Text Study Continues

This drop-in class on "Jewish Perspectives on the Beginning and End of Time" examines speculative and subjective *midrashic* and *aggadic* texts (non-binding rabbinic exposition of the Torah) concerning the story of Creation and the coming of the Messiah, the end of days, and the "world to come," as well as contemporary authors who have based work on these texts. The texts will be studied in both English and Hebrew, but no knowledge of Hebrew is required. Classes will be held on December 1 and 15, January 12, 19, and 26. There is no charge for this class.

Wednesday Lunch and Learn

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin and Rabbi Kim Blumenthal lead free Wednesday Lunch and Learn sessions from noon–1:15 p.m. on a wide range of topics. Participants are asked to bring a dairy lunch; refreshments and desserts being provided free of charge by the congregation. On December 3 the topic is "Kashrut: The Jewish Dietary Laws, Ancient Traditions, and Contemporary Dilemmas." What are some of the current questions being discussed by traditional Jews in the area of Kashrut? How are these contemporary questions (and answers) different from those in the past? The December 10 topic is "The Story of Joseph, Part I." As the story of Joseph is being read in the weekly cycle of Torah readings, this session will discuss various interpretations of this well-known story. On December 17 the discussion will continue with "The Story of Joseph, Part II." The January Lunch and Learn sessions will meet on January 14, 21, and 28. Check the Beth Israel website (www.bethisrawel-aa.org) for the January topics.

Adult Hebrew Classes at Beth Israel

Beth Israel Congregation is offering multiple 12-week Adult Hebrew classes this winter, beginning January 5. New students are asked to meet with the instructor to determine the best class for their backgrounds. There are five levels of conversational Hebrew and three levels of Biblical Hebrew. Contact Mary at Beth Israel to receive the full brochure: mary@bethisrael-aa.org, 665-9897. Anyone in the community is welcome to join these classes. There is a tuition fee.

Classes are taught by two veteran Hebrew instructors, Malli Holoshitz and Pauli Weizman. Holoshitz is a native Israeli who has taught Hebrew for many years; she is noted for her lively and animated teaching style. She earned a doctorate in education from the University of Michigan, and teaches at the Frankel Jewish Academy of Metro Detroit. Holoshitz also teaches at the School of Education at Eastern Michigan University, and at the University of Michigan. Weizman has been teaching Hebrew at the University of Michigan since 1987, and is the recipient of an "Excellence in Education" award by the Department of Near Eastern Studies. She is a native Israeli and has earned two master's degrees—one in teaching English as a second language, and the other in social work; she also has a bachelor's in Hebrew linguistics.

Women and Modern Jewish Ritual

Rabbi Kim Blumenthal will lead two sessions on "Women and Jewish Ritual" on January 18 and March 29, at 9:30 a.m. From welcoming daughters into the covenant to marking life cycle milestones, this study group will explore rituals that have developed for Jewish women in the modern world. This two-session workshop will address Jewish responses to important life issues including fertility, divorce, and aging, and will create the opportunity to understand the role that Judaism can play in moments of transition. The group will also explore techniques for creating meaningful, personal rituals that are informed by Jewish tradition. Women of all ages are welcome. Contact Mary Bilyeu at 665-9897 by January 12 to reserve a place. There is no charge for this class.

Friday Night Dinners

On Friday, December 12 at 7 p.m., Beth Israel Congregation offers a traditional community Friday Night Dinner. The dinner is preceded by a Kabbalat Shabbat; Beth Israel students at Hebrew Day School will be celebrated for their participation in Jewish learning and will help to lead the service.

On Friday, January 9, there will be an Italian-themed community Friday Night Dinner, preceded by a special service celebrating Beth Israel Religious School's second through fifth graders' participation in Jewish learning. They will also participate in leading the service. There is a charge for dinner at both events.

Sweatshirt Shabbat, Cholent Kiddush

This special Shabbat service and kiddush takes place on Saturday, December 20, with the service starting at 9:30 a.m. Participants may wear their favorite sweatshirt from camp, college, or travel while spending the morning in comfort. The reception following services features a cholent sit-down kiddush with an internationally influenced array of hot and hearty cholents, prepared by Beth Israel Congregation members and Nikki Klein, the Beth Israel kitchen coordinator. There is no charge for lunch.

December 24 Dinner at Chia Shiang

Honoring a long-standing tradition of Jews the world over, Beth Israel Congregation will meet at Chia Shiang restaurant (2016 Packard Rd.) on Wednesday, December 24 at 7 p.m. for a vegetarian Chinese meal. There is a charge, paid directly to Chia Shiang. For reservations call Jake Kander, 769-1651.

Quiz Night

The second annual Beth Israel Quiz Night will take place on January 24 at 7 p.m. Teams will compete for prizes and to earn the coveted title of Quiz Night Champions. The night includes multi-media trivia challenges, written puzzles, and a dessert break midway through the competition. Table teams of up to 10 may be formed in advance or when at the event. The cost is $10 for adults, $5 for high school students.

World Wide Wrap

On Sunday, February 1 at 9:30 a.m., Beth Israel Men's Club will sponsor a local "World Wide Wrap" event. This program is a project of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, which encourages Jews around the world to put on *tefillin* and pray together. Beth Israel will provide extra sets of *tefillin* and experienced *tefillin* teachers will be available to assist anyone (man or woman) who would like to participate in this important mitzvah. Beth Israel is known for its past Polar Bear Tefillin Photos, which capture all the *tefillin*-clad participants in the out-of-doors, regardless of the weather.

Following the Shaharit service, participants will enjoy a brunch of bagels, lox, and coffee. Beth Israel's Middle School, which participates in the morning service every Sunday, will also be joining the World Wide Wrap. The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC) is an organization of approximately 270 Conservative/Masorti Jewish men's groups, consisting of 25,000 individuals worldwide. The FJMC supports Jewish men in Jewish life by building and strengthening Men's Clubs in the Conservative/Masorti Movement.

Junior Congregation and Moadon on Saturdays

Junior Congregation provides a Shabbat morning program for kids in first through fifth grades. It begins at 10 a.m. with Moadon, an opportunity for kids to hang out and play games led by our high school *Madrichim.* At 11 a.m. there is a special Shabbat service for kids, offering a mixture of teaching and prayer, and a chance for the kids to lead their own service. Junior Congregation meets on Saturdays, December 6, 13, and 20, and January 10, 17, 24, and 31. In January Kehilat Shabbat will be launched, an enhancement to Junior Congregation. Kehilat Shabbat will take place twice monthly and kicks off January 24 with "Super Hero Shabbat."

Saturday Morning Tot Shabbat

Tot Shabbat, for children through kindergarten and their families, is held at 11:15 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturday of every month. Tot Shabbat is led on alternating weeks by Peretz Hirshbein and Jessica Kander, and features songs and a special Shabbat celebration. Tot Shabbat concludes with grape juice and challah and the recitation of the *kiddush* and *hamotzi.* Afterwards, families are encouraged to join the regular Kiddush reception upstairs at a special tots table. Tot Shabbat will meet December 13, January 10, and January 24. There is no charge for this program.

Tot Chanukah Party

On Tuesday, December 23, Beth Israel Congregation will hold a Tot Chanukah Party starting at 5:30 p.m. Children kindergarten age and younger are invited to celebrate the third night of Chanukah with a *latke* dinner and *dreidel* games. There will also be arts and crafts where kids can make their own Maccabbee shields. Plus, all children will receive a small gift. Families are asked to bring a *hanukkiah* from their home for the candle lighting ceremony.

New program for BIRS 6th Graders

Beth Israel sixth graders will begin a new program this winter. In addition to their Judaic studies and Hebrew classes, students will attend seven Shabbat morning sessions designed to increase their knowledge and participation in the service. These include study sessions with the rabbinical and educational staff, as well as an in-depth study of the Torah service. The students will participate in the regular Beth Israel service. The Shabbat morning sessions are part of the "Being Jewish, Living Jewish" curriculum developed for the sixth graders.

Overnight Homeless Shelter

Beth Israel Congregation will again participate in the Ann Arbor Shelter Association of Washtenaw County's rotating shelter program. From December 22–January 5 Beth Israel will host up to 25 overflow guests (each night) from the main shelter on 312 W. Huron. Three–four volunteers are needed each night, and two–three drivers are needed each morning and evening to drive the guests to and from Beth Israel.

The men permitted to participate in the program are free of serious substance or psychological issues. Online signup will be available through the Beth Israel website, www.bethisrael-aa.org, or by contacting Rebecca Kanner at 994-5717. Volunteers are needed.

The Shelter Association serves the largest percentage of those experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County: single adult men and women. All of the clients share two characteristics: They have no place to live, and they do not currently have the resources to secure and maintain housing. Many of their clients face multiple barriers that impede their obtaining housing on their own. The Shelter Association offers a variety of services and programs to help individuals who are experiencing homelessness. These range from providing emergency shelter, referrals for substance abuse treatment, clothing vouchers, transportation, and food, to providing health care, housing assistance, and assistance with money management.

Temble Beth Emeth winter offerings

Ronnie Simon, special to the WJN

Chanukah events

Chanukah bazaars

The TBE Sisterhood has gifts for all ages for Chanukah. Traditional items, such as menorahs and candles, as well as books, games, and other gift items of general interest are available in this two-day bazaar, Saturday, December 13 from 9 a.m.–2 p.m., and Sunday, December 14 from 3–7 p.m.

Concert and party

The community is invited to the annual lively Chanukah Concert featuring Beth Emeth's four choirs, on Sunday, December 14 at 4 p.m. This lively concert is followed by a reception-party. Come visit the Chanukah bazaar either before or after the concert.

Latke Dinner

The TBE Brotherhood is sponsoring its annual Chanukah Latke Dinner on Friday, December 26 at 6 p.m., before the Shabbat service. Dinner for adults is $12.50, and children ages 10 and under are $5. Reserve a place for this dinner in advance, or visit the Temple's website, www.templebethemeth.org, to sign up and pay for dinner on-line.

Chanukah Service

No one ever forgets the look of the TBE sanctuary awash in the glow of dozen's of blazing Chanukah menorahs. This year, the Shabbat service is on the eighth night of Chanukah, so the menorahs will be even more spectacular. The community is always welcome for Shabbat, and is invited to bring a menorah and candles.

The normal Shabbat service schedule is suspended for this week; the 7:30 p.m. service will be the only service available.

Winter adult education

Shulchan Aruch with Rabbi Levy

The core of Jewish life across time, place, and movement is the rule by which we live. Judaism says that we agree to live by a system of laws that reveal the Devine will. The *Shulcan Aruch* is the most current guide of these rules. This class will explore both traditional Jewish law as well as modern understandings. Participants will also explore the larger framework of doing God's will and seeking those rules that make sense today. The class will meet for three Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., December 2, 9, and 16.

Torah Trop with Cantor Annie Rose

Cantor Rose offers a weekly class to teach the *trop* (markings with their corresponding melodies) for the *haftarah* portions. This class meets on Mondays from noon to 1 p.m.

Women's Torah Study

The Women of Reform Judaism has published a new *Women's Torah Commentary*. The Sisterhood of Temple Beth Emeth is offering a bi-weekly Women's Torah Study based on this new book, and led by Cantor Annie Rose. Classes are at 7:30 p.m. on Mondays and will be held on December 1 and 15, and January 5 and 26.

Mourning and Mitzvah with Cantor Annie Rose

This course provides an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Jewish mourning customs and practice through reading, discussion, and writing. Designed for those who have experiences loss as well as those seeking knowledge and insight into this important aspect of Jewish life. Class will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays, January 15, 22, 29, and February 5.

Author Julie Halpert discusses Making up with Mom

Temple Beth Emeth's religious school offers a selection of special programs for adults during Saturday morning religious school. TBE member and author, Julie Halpert, will discuss her new book, *Making up with Mom*, at two consecutive sessions (8:45–10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.) on Saturday, January 17.

To register for any of the above classes, call the Temple Beth Emeth office, 665-4744.

Light up the darkness

Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

In the "olden days" there were no electric streetlights. There were kerosene lanterns on every corner whose light shined forth and made going through the streets less threatening. Lamplighters trudged from lamp to lamp with a torch, kindling each flame.

Even in the cold and the dark, these lone figures would make their way through the night, leaving a path of light behind them.

We are all lamplighters, charged with the mission of illuminating the world with the light of the Torah and its mitzvot. While this theme is always relevant, at certain times its importance resonates more forcefully than others.

Chanukah is one of those times. As we put our menorahs near the doors or windows of our homes with the intent that they shine light into the darkness, we convey a message to the world: "Darkness is temporary. With a little bit of light it can be banished."

The Previous Lubavitcher Rebbe would tell his *chasidim*, "We must listen carefully to what the Chanukah candles are saying." For the light of the Chanukah candles points us toward many important goals.

Firstly, the Chanukah lights should be kindled after sunset and must burn into the night.

The Chanukah candles teach us not to accept darkness as reality, but instead to kindle light. Moreover, we place the candles at our doorways or in our windows, indicating that we should not remain content with lighting up our own homes. Instead, we must reach out and spread light as far as we possibly can, lighting up the public domain.

Going further: On each night of Chanukah, we add to the number of candles lit on the previous night. Implied is that we can't sit still and rest on our laurels. Instead, we must increase our endeavors every day to spread light throughout the world. Though we illuminated our environment on the previous night, we cannot remain content, but instead must strive to make a further and greater contribution.

Chanukah is celebrated for eight days, a number that our Sages associate with the era of the Redemption. What is unique about eight? The natural order is structured in sets of seven: There are seven days in a week; seven years in the agricultural cycle observed in the Land of Israel. Eight represents a step above that cycle. In the motif of "eight," the transcendent oneness of God that surpasses nature's set of seven becomes revealed.

Though connected with oneness, eight is not one. The idea is not that infinity will be revealed in a manner that obscures entirely the material framework in which we presently live. Instead, 8 is 7+1, that is, God's oneness will permeate seven, the set of nature. We will appreciate how the truth of our own existence is Godliness. The transcendent will be enclosed within the framework of our worldly sphere.

This message is illuminated by the light of the Chanukah candles. They recall the miraculous burning of the menorah in the Temple and imbue us with the awareness that the menorah will soon be kindled again, spreading Godly light openly throughout the world. ■

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January Events

Rubberbandance Group

Victor Quijada and
Anne Plamondon co-artistic directors
SAT, JAN 10 | 1 PM [ONE-HOUR FAMILY PERFORMANCE]
SAT, JAN 10 | 8 PM
SUN, JAN 11 | 2 PM
Power Center

An über-physical hybrid of precision and invention, Rubberbandance Group mixes up explosive hip-hop, contemporary, and classical dance with energy that pops and sizzles.

The Sunday performance is sponsored by University of Michigan Health System

The 08/09 Family Series is sponsored by **Toyota.**

Funded in part by the **National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts** and the **Performing Arts Fund.**

Media Sponsors **Metro Times, Between the Lines,** and **Michigan Radio 91.7 FM.**

Farewell Tour
Guarneri String Quartet

SUN, JAN 11 | 4 PM
Rackham Auditorium

PROGRAM

Beethoven String Quartet No. 12 in E-flat Major, Op. 127 (1823-24)
Beethoven String Quartet No. 15 in a minor, Op. 132 (1825)

Sponsored by the **Linda and Maurice Binkow Philanthropic Fund.**

Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts** as part of **American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius.**

Media Sponsors **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**

Tord Gustavsen Trio

Tord Gustavsen piano
Harald Johnsen bass
Mats Eilertsen drums
FRI, JAN 16 | 8 PM
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

While relating to genres like Scandinavian folk music, American gospel, Caribbean music, and cool jazz, the Tord Gustavsen Trio presents a unique universe of lyricism, luminescence, and subtle funkiness.

Sponsored by BORDERS. **James and Nancy Stanley**

Media Sponsors **WEMU 89.1 FM** and **Metro Times.**

Gilgamesh

Kinan Azmeh composer, clarinet
Kevork Mourad painter, live visuals
FRI, JAN 23 | 7 PM & 9 PM
SAT, JAN 24 | 7 PM & 9 PM
Biomedical Science Research Building Auditorium

This unique multimedia event explores the ancient epic of *Gilgamesh* through both music and visual art, using original composition on the clarinet inspired by spontaneous drawings projected live by Syrian/Armenian painter Kevork Mourad.

The Performing Arts of the Arab World series is supported in part by **TAQA New World, Inc; The Mosaic Foundation, Washington DC;** and the **Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and Bustan al-Funun Foundation for Arab Arts.**

The Friday performance is sponsored by **Gil Omenn and Martha Darling.**

Media Sponsors **The Arab American News, Arab Detroit,** and **Between the Lines.**

Richard Goode piano

SUN, JAN 25 | 4 PM
Hill Auditorium

PROGRAM

J. S. Bach French Suite No.5 in G Major, BWV 816
Chopin Mazurkas
Scherzo No.3 in c-sharp minor, Op. 39
Barcarolle in F-sharp Major, Op. 60
J. S. Bach Preludes and Fugues from *The Well-Tempered Klavier*, BWV 846-893
Chopin Nocturne in F-sharp Major, Op. 15, No. 2
Nocturne in D-flat Major, Op. 27, No .2
Waltz in c-sharp minor, Op. 64, No. 2
Waltz in A-flat Major, Op. 64, No. 3
Valse brillante in F Major, Op. 34, No. 3
Polonaise-fantasie in A-flat Major, Op. 61

Sponsored by **Donald L. Morelock.**

Media Sponsors **WGTE 91.3 FM, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers,** and **WRCJ 90.9 FM.**

Wondrous Free
Chanticleer

Matthew Oltman music director
THU, JAN 29 | 8 PM
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

With its seamless blend of 12 male voices, ranging from countertenor to bass, the ensemble is "the world's reigning male chorus." (*The New Yorker*) Their program will include early American hymns, Mexican Baroque choral works, European madrigals, new works, and pieces drawn from American folk songs, jazz, and gospel.

Media Sponsor **WRCJ 90.9 FM.**

FORD HONORS PROGRAM

14th Annual Ford Honors Program
HONORING THE
Royal Shakespeare Company
Michael Boyd artistic director
Ralph Williams U-M Professor of English

SAT, JAN 24 | 6 PM [NOTE DATE & TIME]
Rackham Auditorium [NOTE NEW VENUE]

Join us for the 14th Annual Ford Honors Program, which celebrates the partnership between the University Musical Society, the University of Michigan, and the Royal Shakespeare Company, whose first UMS appearance in 2001 featured the stunning productions of Shakespeare's rarely-performed History Plays. U-M English Professor Ralph Williams has been a driving force behind the success of these residencies, helping thousands of students and community members approach the RSC performances in new and exciting ways.

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Fall workshop addresses needs and interests of teachers

Milka Eliav, special to the WJN

On October 29, the Jewish Educators Council held its fall workshop for Jewish Educators, with more than 50 teachers attending. Teachers were as diverse as the organizations they work for: Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County Early Childhood Center, Beth Israel Congregation, Temple Beth Emeth, Hebrew Day School, and Keshet were represented by their teachers. Three sessions were offered, dealing with a wide range of topics and addressing the different needs and interests of teachers at the various levels of the education systems.

Peretz Hirshbein, assistant director at the JCC Early Childhood Center, and Noreen De Young, the director of the program, presented a session titled "Planning Purposeful Transitions: Entries, Exits and Other Changes." The main focus of this session were the daily challenges faced by teachers of younger children when transitioning from one activity to the next or when taking the class from one room to another. Teachers learned about the impact of transitions on children, and discussed ways to engage children in effective transitions. This hands-on presentation then offered teachers an organized "flow chart" to handle the potentially stressful moves throughout the child's day, and then provided them with "group time" to practice what they learned by planning an effective transition. Hirshbein and De Young believe that effective transition strategies can be applied to real life and encouraged all participants to incorporate these strategies in their classrooms.

Moshe Kornfeld, a middle school teacher at Temple Beth Emeth who is also writing his Ph.D in anthropology at the University of Michigan, offered a session titled "Greening Your Classroom." Teachers attending this session enjoyed "eco-drama" activities in which Jewish and environmental parables are acted out and then discussed; they learned about students' ability to kinesthetically understand nature by acting out, for example, the different parts of the tree (such as: taproot, sapwood, bark, and more) and the role each part plays in the growth and life of a tree. Teachers also explored the connection between Judaism and the Environment and learned about the many ways environmental awareness can be incorporated into the everyday life of a Jewish classroom.

Barbara Bergman, HDS teacher consultant, and Dr. Andrea Hansel, psychologist, presented a joint session about "Strategies for Working With Challenging Behavior and Special Learning Issues." They provided a comprehensive overview of the different learning disabilities students might bring to the classroom, the various symptoms of these conditions, and ways of coping with them in a manner that addresses the needs of child, classmates, and teacher alike. Practical strategies like keeping a log of the irregular behavior or maintaining good communication with the parents are only two of the ways that may assist a teacher in successfully dealing with challenging behavior in their classroom. The presenters' extensive professional experience added a personal touch to the evening, especially when they each shared first-hand anecdotes from real life.

The evening was a well rounded event, allowing local professionals to share their insights and skills with the community of teachers in Ann Arbor and to enhance professional development of their fellow teachers here. The Jewish Educators' Council is looking forward to more successful workshops in January, involving not only teachers, but students as well. ■

JCC youth programs

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Chanukah-themed Kids' Night Out to feature Kung Fu Panda

Each month the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County offers a Kids' Night Out event featuring games, crafts, dinner, and a movie to give elementary-age kids a chance to have fun with their friends, and parents a chance to have a night on their own. This month's event will be held at the JCC from 6:30–10 p.m. on Saturday, December 13.

Following the theme of "A Kung Fu Chanukah," the event will be filled with fun Chanukah games and crafts, plus dinner and a viewing of this summer's hit movie, *Kung Fu Panda*. This delightful movie follows the story of a panda who learns to master kung fu and believe in himself.

Kids' Night Out events are open to JCC members and non-members in grades K–5. The cost for JCC members is $20 (additional siblings: $18). The cost for non-members is $25 (additional siblings: $23). Registrations are due by Thursday, December 11.

Winter break programs

This year the JCC will offer Winter Break Fun Day programs from 8 a.m.–6 p.m. on December 22–24, 26, 29–31, and January 2. Each Winter Break Fun Day will feature a fun field trip or special activity, plus crafts, games, and gym time or outdoor recess. Programming details for each day will be available in early December; tentative field trip plans include Jungle Java, Jump City, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, ice skating, children's theatre, and other exciting destinations.

The Winter Break Fun Day programs are for JCC members ONLY in grades K–5; middle school students are also welcome to participate as helpers. The cost for each day is $34 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. ($32 for additional siblings) and $8 for Extended Care from 4–6 p.m. Registration and payment are due by Thursday, December 19.

Snow-days programs for grades K–8

The Youth Department of the JCC will once again offer Snow Day programs this winter. On days when the JCC is able to open but Ann Arbor Public Schools are cancelled due to winter weather conditions, the Youth Department will run a Snow Day program from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. for JCC members in kindergarten through eighth grades. During JCC Snow Days, students will enjoy games, gym activities, and fun in the snow under the supervision of youth director Deborah Huerta and other available staff. Students should bring a nut free, dairy lunch and appropriate clothes for playing outside.

The Snow Days program is for JCC members only and the program fee is $50 per student (Kids' Konnection and Kids' Club participants are eligible for discounts). Registration in advance is not required, but parents will be asked to fill out a registration form and submit payment when they arrive.

School's Out Program on January 19

The JCC will offer a School's Out/JCC's In program on January 19 from 8 a.m.–6 p.m. Participants will take part in the JCC's community-wide Social Action Day event in the afternoon in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The JCC's School's Out programs are for JCC members ONLY in grades K–5; middle school students are also welcome to participate as helpers. The cost is $34 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. ($32 for additional siblings) and $8 for Extended Care from 4–6 p.m. Registration is due by Thursday, January 15.

For additional information or to register for all JCC youth programs, visit www.jccannarbor.org or contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

PJ Library continues into second year

Laura Berger, special to the WJN

Cuddling up and reading with a child before bed creates a memorable bond and lifelong love of books. Reading stories and listening to music are among the most powerful and nurturing early childhood learning experiences. Because of this, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor will continue its partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation for a second year to expand the PJ Library with the generous support of an anonymous philanthropist.

"We recently moved to Michigan," explains Amy Valle, a mother of two, "We were in an area where the closest Jewish community was two hours away. When we got here, I found out about the PJ Library and signed up. I was unexpectedly delighted by the quality of the selections … and of my children's joy when the books arrive! They happily jump into bed and even ask for books to reread! Thank you so much for this wonderful program!"

Conceived as a giving library, The PJ Library (PJ as in pajamas) provides young families with a treasury of Jewish bedtime books and CDs. Each child, six months to seven years old, enrolled in The PJ Library, will receive a monthly gift of a Jewish book or CD. The PJ Library is free for one year; after the first 12 months, families have the opportunity to re-enroll at the significantly subsidized rate of $18 per year per child.

David Shtulman, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, says, "The wonderful thing about the PJ Library is that it takes an intimate, loving experience of reading stories with Mom and Dad that children remember their whole lives, and transforms it into a Jewish experience they will later want to recreate with their own children."

A team of children's literature, music, and education experts selects the PJ Library books and CDs, with an eye toward communicating Jewish stories, heritage, and values by catching the eyes and ears of young children. Along with the gift of books and music, families are receiving parenting books and reading guides to enhance their PJ Library experience. To see a complete list of books by age group, visit www.pjlibrary.org.

For more information, or to enroll in the PJ Library in Greater Ann Arbor, contact Laura Berger at laura@jewishannarbor.org or 677-0100. If you have grandchildren in other communities, contact Berger to find out about how you can enroll them in the PJ Library.

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Second generation comes to Hebrew Day School

Abigail Weinberg and Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

Five-year-old Eli Thorpe made history this year when he entered kindergarten as the first Hebrew Day School (HDS) student whose parent graduated from HDS. Eli's mother, Carrie Fried Thorpe, attended HDS for fifth and sixth grades, graduating in 1983. At that time there were only three students in her grade level and 42 students in the entire school—less than half of today's enrollment.

Michael and Lizbeth Fried

After graduating from HDS, Thorpe attended Tappan Middle School and Community High School. She received her bachelor's degree in linguistics from the University of Michigan and continued studying linguistics at the graduate level at Northwestern University. She is married to Simon Thorpe, a systems administrator at Thomson Reuters, and has two sons, Eli (5) and Adam (2). These days, Thorpe is home full-time with her younger son.

Carrie and Simon Thorpe with sons Eli and Adam

In a recent interview, Thorpe spoke about her memories of the Hebrew Day School and her decision to send her son there. "We had Judaic Studies in the morning," she recalls, "and in the afternoon, we had our general subjects. I particularly remember math because we would meet individually with our teacher and work very independently. Unlike at the public school I attended previously, there was very little 'busy work' at HDS. It was hard, at first, to get used to the intensity of the classroom, but I learned a lot and appreciated how individualized everything was, especially the math instruction."

Thorpe also remembers when HDS held its classes at Beth Israel Congregation. "We had to keep all our books and belongings in a bucket on a shelf because the space wasn't really ours. One very nice thing about being at Beth Israel was the beautiful chapel in which we conducted our morning prayers and met with the local rabbis to learn Talmud. I was so proud of the role my mother played [as president of the board] in finding a home for HDS in the JCC building and making that dream a reality."

"The best part of going to HDS was that it made me feel more confident as a Jew, especially when I went on to Tappan. I also think my experience changed my family a lot, Jewishly."

Thorpe says that one of the primary reasons she is choosing HDS for her children is so that they, too, can be confident and comfortable with their Jewish identities. The Jewish influence gained by sending Eli to HDS is important to the Thorpes, as they expect it to help the family keep the Jewish traditions alive. Simon Thorpe was particularly drawn to HDS' Hebrew language immersion program. Simon Thorpe grew up in England, where foreign languages are taught at a young age, and he believes it is a critical part of a complete education.

Thorpe's older brother, Aaron Fried, and his wife, Dahlia Weinman, also send their son Leo to HDS. Fried did not attend HDS with his sister because he was already in second grade when HDS opened with only a kindergarten class.

"I just think it's fabulous," said Thorpe's mother, Lizbeth Fried, about her grandchildren attending HDS. "Last year, when my grandson Leo was in the first grade, I went to watch him in a play and I started to cry. It was very moving to remember all the struggles undertaken to ensure the school's early survival and to realize that now my own grandson is having the opportunity to reap what we had sown so many years before." Fried became president of the board long after her children graduated and says, "I never thought I would personally benefit from those efforts. But now the school is thriving and, God willing, it looks like all my grandchildren will attend it. I'm getting quite a lot of *naches* from the achievements of all my children—human and institutional!"

Both Thorpe and her mother agree that the Hebrew Day School is continuing a family tradition of outstanding education within a caring, Jewish atmosphere. Fried and his wife concur. "We are thrilled with Leo's experience at Hebrew Day School. When we moved from New York to Ann Arbor, we chose HDS because it provides both an excellent education and the opportunity to strengthen our children's Jewish identities and learn Hebrew. Leo is now in his second year and HDS has delivered on all counts." ■

For more information about the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, call 971-4633, visit www.hdsaa.org, or attend an Open House on Monday, December 1 or Wednesday, January 14 at HDS.

HDS to hold contest for school mascot

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

The Hebrew Day School (HDS) of Ann Arbor recently voted to adopt the lion as their mascot. A new contest will determine what that lion will look like, and Hebrew Day School is now accepting artistic submissions for the mascot. The image will be used on a variety of materials, including school-spirit wear likely to be seen all over Ann Arbor. The winning design will become the official mascot for the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor.

All artists (professional, student, aspiring, and amateur) are invited and encouraged to enter. Download registration form and contest rules at www.hdsaa.org. Email questions to mascot@hdsaa.org. The deadline for submissions is noon, Friday, December 12.

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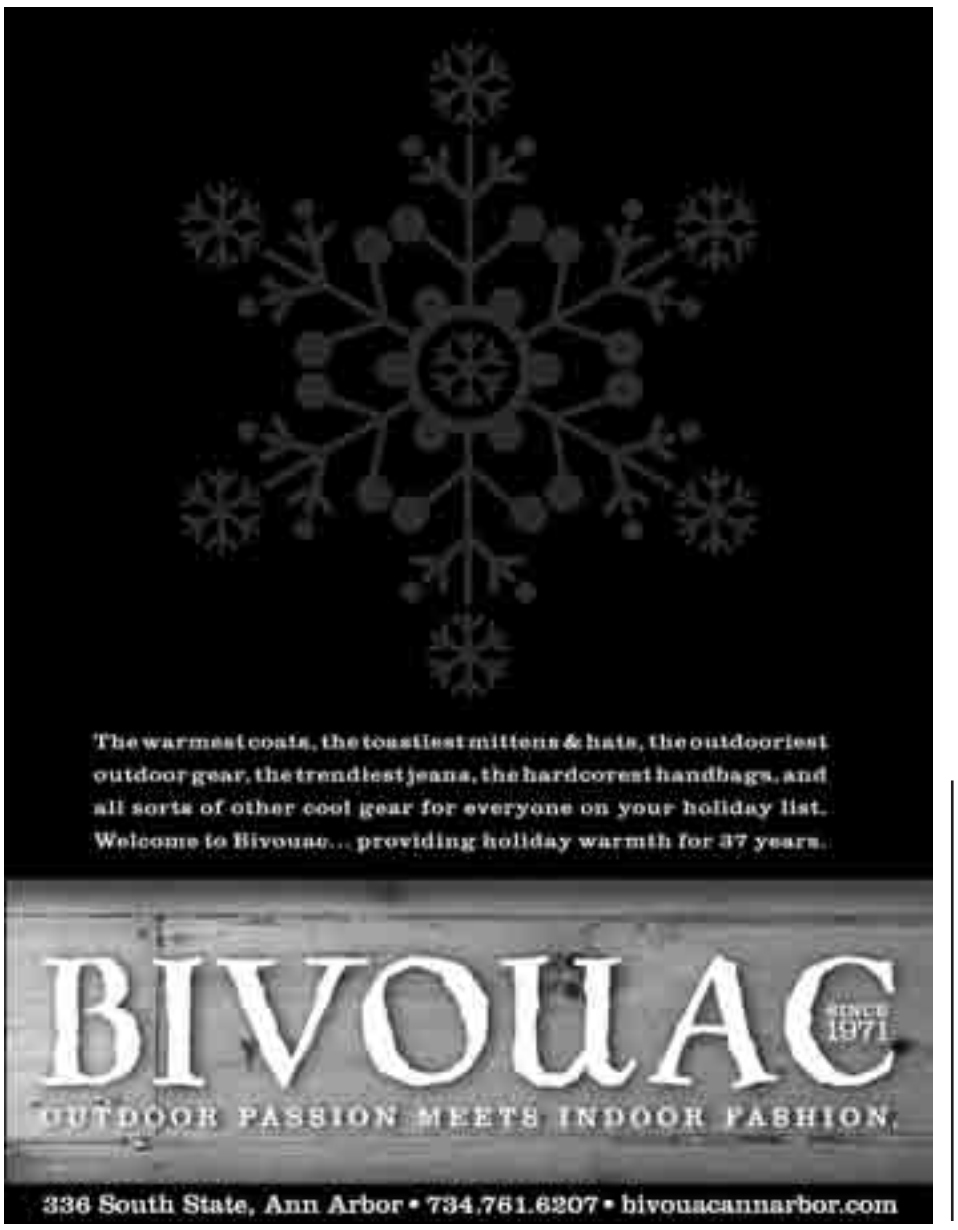

Financial concerns underscore the G.A.

By Jacob Berkman

JERUSALEM (JTA)—When the United Jewish Communities began planning last year for its 2008 General Assembly in Israel, the goal was to highlight and strengthen the federation system's support for philanthropic efforts in the Jewish state.

But as more than 3,000 federation lay and professional leaders from North America gathered last month at the Binyanei HaUma international convention center in Jerusalem, their attention seemed more focused on the economic gloom-and-doom back home.

On the face of it, this year's G.A. was very much about highlighting the programs that the federations help finance in Israel, with a dual emphasis on attracting young, "Next Generation" donors and the upcoming election for Israeli prime minister.

The reality, however, is that many federation officials and lay leaders—like those at virtually every other American nonprofit organization—are supremely worried about the financial crisis, one which is forcing serious concern about budget crunches at best and threatening their existence at worst.

It was the constant topic of conversation among delegates for the four-day G.A. —as well as among participants at the UJC's Lion of Judah Conference on women's philanthropy in Tel Aviv the preceding week—with a sense that many are waiting for the bottom to drop out.

The major fear is a drop in donations coinciding with a sharp rise in charitable need. Such a combination would pose significant challenges to a network of Jewish federations that collectively raised more than $2 billion last year for local and international Jewish causes—more than $900 million through their annual fund-raising campaigns, the rest from endowments and capital campaigns.

Hallway conversations at the G.A. revealed difficult times. The federation in Atlanta is $2 million off its pace; small federations are in serious trouble; the federation in Washington has cut the salaries of its top employees and is facing layoffs; the Las Vegas federation is looking at hard times due to the collapse of both the real estate market and the gaming industry.

The UJC, the system's umbrella organization, is trying to remain optimistic while remaining realistic about the scope of the challenges.

Many of the system's largest federations already have had their first major fund-raisers for the 2008-09 campaigns and done well, the UJC's president and CEO Howard Rieger said at a news conference before the G.A.'s opening plenary.

In Chicago, he said, more than $20 million was raised at its opening dinner last month—a 13 percent increase from last year. And New York, which has the system's largest campaign by far, raised $42 million in pledges at its opening fund-raising dinner eight weeks ago. The gross total raised to date at such events is up from last year, Rieger said.

And the Lion of Judah Conference, which unlike the G.A., includes a fund-raising component, raised $16 million, Rieger said, a 13 percent increase over the previous year. It is encouraging, Rieger said, but all is not well.

"I am not Pollyannaish. We're not kidding ourselves—there's an economic crisis out there. Will it have an impact? We believe it will have an impact," Rieger told reporters. "We are cautiously optimistic that it won't be what people think it might be, which is a total disaster. I don't think that is what we are confronting."

Still, even the story behind the positive numbers contains cause for concern. While initial total numbers for pledges may have increased, the number of donors has dropped significantly, Rieger acknowledged.

Those who have made pledges are pledging more money, but a number of major donors have told federations that they cannot give right now and that their local federation should ask again later in the year.

For instance, the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, which ranks among the country's largest federations, has seen an increase in the size of pledges from major donors that have given this year, according to its CEO. But it is about $2 million behind on the pace of its campaign, with many donors telling the federation they cannot give right now.

This is the case throughout the federation system, the UJC Chairman Joe Kanfer told JTA.

"None of us have a crystal ball," he said. "We have optimism and increased gifts, but we have some people who are asking to delay their gifts to see where things go. But the point is we don't know. We can't make promises."

There is optimism that large federations most likely will come through 2008 reasonably well because their fiscal years ended in late summer or early fall. Small federations with campaigns of $3 million or less, however, may be in serious trouble. Typically their fiscal years don't end until Dec. 31, and most do not have cash in hand for the pledges that were made in the early part of the year.

Kanfer confirmed the serious concern that these federations will fall short on their projections because donors will not be able to pay their pledges.

Compounding the concern over annual fund-raising campaigns is the impact of the spiraling stock market on federation endowments. Federations earned approximately $1.5 billion last year from their endowments in new contributions and returns on investments. Endowments almost uniformly have been hit hard in recent months.

The UJC will not have third quarter numbers available on how the local federation endowment investments are performing until later this year, but the country's largest privately endowed Jewish Foundation, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, lost 13 percent of its assets—or $300 million—in the past year. The foundation dropped from $2.3 billion to $2 billion despite having only 60 percent of its money is invested in the stock market.

Even the $16 million touted at the Lion of Judah Conference includes not only pledges made at the gathering but also those made by donors earlier this year.

The decreasing intake of dollars is bad news for a system that already has reported an increase in need from the organizations it funds. While most federation-raised money goes to help Jews in North America, about 33 percent is used for overseas causes.

Among the federations' two primary overseas partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the fear is real. The Jewish Agency is responsible for immigration and absorption into Israel and Jewish identity programs abroad, and the JDC helps impoverished Jews around the world.

They currently divide a pool of approximately $180 million that the UJC collects from the federations as part of a required overseas allocation. That money, which is divvied up according to a 3-1 split for the Jewish Agency, pays for the organizations' core operating budgets. The agency—and to a far greater extent the JDC—also collects additional money from federations for specific projects.

The Jewish Agency, which received about $140 million, already has announced that it will need to cut its budget for next year by $45 million. And the JDC, which instituted heavy layoffs in the spring, is seriously concerned that the budget for next year it set in July will be irrelevant by the start of 2009.

An official from one of the overseas organizations told JTA that they are expecting the federation fund-raising campaigns could bring in 5 percent to 8 percent less in 2008 than they had expected. That could spell trouble for overseas allocations.

Federations already facing increased demand from the local social service organizations they fund in their communities could choose to focus their resources to stave off crisis at home versus overseas. Among the local pressures: Jewish family and children services, food banks and other social services are seeing spikes in their client rolls, and Jewish community centers and day schools are turning to the federations for help with budget shortfalls because of membership loss and tuition woes.

The professional heads of both organizations—Ze'ev Bielski, the Jewish Agency chairman, and Steven Schwager, the JDC's executive director—made pleas for help at the G.A.'s opening plenary.

A top lay leader at one of the system's largest federations told JTA at the Lion of Judah Conference that several large federations are now role-playing several scenarios in which their campaign takes a slight—or significant —dip in 2009 and domestic needs soar. In some scenarios their allocations, including those to overseas needs, could look drastically different than they do now.

The UJC knows that this could be a difficult time for the system, but its leadership is trying to stay upbeat.

"We are in a period of uncertainty, but the good news is that the number of donors that are stepping up is increasing," Kanfer said at the news conference.

The UJC leader invoked a plea that was made at a recent fund-raising event for the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, where a major challenge grant initiative was launched.

"You have some paper losses, looking at the performance of the stock market. On the other hand, for the people who have needs, this is not on paper. This is about hunger. This is about personal family need," Kanfer said, quoting a speaker at the Miami event.

Continuing in his own words, he said, "The kinds of people who are making contributions to our system are concerned people in the first place. This is not a random move for our donors. This is something they take seriously, and it is part of their identity for Jews. And in some ways greater need may make them stretch harder because of the need and because of who they are." ■

G.A. organizers reach out to 'Next Gen'

By Jacob Berkman

JERUSALEM (JTA)—This might be your grandparents' federation system, but now it should belong to you. That was essentially the message organizers of this year's United Jewish Communities General Assembly were hoping to hammer home by programming an entire day aimed at "Next Gen" participants. The effort drew about 800 participants overall.

The UJC, which is the umbrella organization for the North American network of local Jewish charitable federations, has made a concerted effort over the past several years to engage adults in their 20s and 30s—a necessity for a fund-raising operation that is absent from the philanthropic lexicon of many young Jews.

At the 2007 G.A., the organization tried to introduce its older generation and current leadership to the "Next Generation." The idea was to give a half-dozen young Jewish innovators a chance to present their ideas on the Jewish community to several thousand delegates.

At the time, the UJC's chairman, Joe Kanfer, said that it was just "a beginning." At this year's G.A., with its "Next Gen" day, the organization seemed to make good on Kanfer's promise.

The federation system currently raises nearly $2 billion per year, but UJC officials and many local federation leaders realized that their philanthropic network is not fully in touch with the generation that must one day pick up its fund-raising mantle—and that if it doesn't connect with young Jews, the system might die.

"We have some set of cohorts that respond to the programs that we run today, that trust the city elders to divide up their money in large amounts and make these divisions. But at the same time, we have much more work to do with next-generation donors who see the world differently," Kanfer said. "We need to broaden our donor base. It's a lot better if they participate and build this on their own than if we try to sit in our old rocking chairs and try to figure it out for them in traditional ways that may have worked perfectly for our parents' generation, may have worked very well for us, but may not work as well for these next generations."

The day dedicated to the younger participants started off at Yad Vashem: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, with a series of speeches from UJC officials and young federation leaders—most of whom are in their 40s—as well as an address by Edgar Bronfman, the beverage magnate with a long track record of funding programs aimed at younger Jews through his Samuel Bronfman Foundation. The UJC then loaded up 19 busses and headed out to various sites that the organization felt would resonate with the participants—most of whom were Americans already in Israel on programs affiliated with the Jewish Agency's MASA initiative, Hillel and groups such as Kol Dor.

Participants paid nothing for participating. The Bronfman Foundation, which kicked in $100,000, and other partner funders footed the bill at $75-per-person for those who took part only in the "Next Gen" day, and $300 for those who attended the rest of the four-day-long G.A.

"Today's world is opened up to Jews both in terms of non-Jewish organizations vying for Jewish dollars, putting Jewish members on their boards and seeking to include Jews in the larger

Continued onpage 33

Philanthropy from Venus

By Jacob Berkman

NEW YORK (JTA)—Women give charity differently than men.They are a little more generous across the board and a little less egocentric in their giving. More often they believe that charity is a moral obligation. And they tend to be more inclined toward education, religion and health-related causes.

Saying so isn't a case of sexism or stereotyping, it's just statistics, says Debra Mesch, the director of the Women's Philanthropy Institute at the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University.

"Women tend to want to spread the wealth a little more, and a lot of that has to do with how men and women are socialized in terms of their upbringing," Mesch told JTA on Monday. "In this culture especially they are the nurturers and are charged with raising the family. Their altruism is more developed."

Statistics show that single women are twice as likely to give charity than single men, she said.

That's why, in part, as the National Women's Philanthropy division of the United Jewish Communities prepped for its annual Lion of Judah conference, organizers and philanthropy experts are saying that women's philanthropy is more important than ever.

The annual conference, held in November in Tel Aviv, was the preamble to the UJC's General Assembly in Jerusalem immediately afterward.

The Lion of Judah, so named because of the solid gold lion-shaped pins that women are awarded because of their giving – and bejeweled in relation to the size of the gifts –was expected to draw some 1,100 women who each give more than $5,000 annually to their local federations.

Over the past decade, the federation system has seen its general annual campaigns slump, but women's giving has grown rapidly, according to the managing director of the National Women's Philanthropy division, Beth Mann.

The Jewish federation system in 1946 became one of the first charities to launch a separate campaign to solicit gifts from women. In its first year, giving by women to that campaign accounted for $10 million – or 10 percent – of the total taken in by the federations.

That dollar total has climbed steadily – to $61 million in 1973 in the aftermath of Israel's Yom Kippur War, and to $138 million in 1995. As the general campaigns fell flat, in 2006 the women's campaigns took in $192 million, or 22 percent of all of the money that federations raised.

Thirty-four percent of donors to the federation system are women, and that doesn't count the women who give gifts from couples and families. Mann estimates that some 50 percent of all the dollars federations take in come from women. That number stands to increase in coming years.

By 2010, experts estimate that women will control some 60 percent of America's wealth

By 2010, experts estimate that women will control some 60 percent of America's wealth – a figure that could increase as some $41 trillion is passed on from the oldest generations to younger generations over the next 50 years. That's because with women living on average seven years longer than men, many husbands will end up leaving their estates to their wives.Some observers see women's philanthropy as a new well that could help bridge the philanthropic gap between today's economic crisis and recovery.

"Women's philanthropy has been an untapped resource because I don't think people have been paying attention to women's giving and women's power," said Indiana University's Mesch.

The Lion of Judah conference focused on thanking women for their giving and inspiring them to give more. That same week, Indiana University ran its own symposium on women's giving to help fund-raisers focus on how to tap into the women's market – a problem for a fund-raising world that still more often focuses on courting men.

"I hear from development officers at Indiana that they talk to the man," Mesch said. "If there is a couple sitting with them, they assume it is the man writing the check, so the discussion always goes to the man. The thank-you note goes to the man.

"But you need to do the little things and realize that it is the women who open the tap. I think it is a huge faucet."

Other philanthropies are catching on. The United Way started its National Leadership Women's Council in 2003 to help guide local United Way branches as they started separate women's campaigns. Already the charity has seen gains.

The system as a whole saw 2.6 percent growth in donations last year, but local branches that started women's campaigns saw on average a 3.6 percent growth, according to the United Way's director of strategic marketing for the women's council, Linda Paulson.

To put into perspective how effective the federation system has been at raising money from women, consider this: The United Way raised $4.2 billion systemwide in 2007 and took in $102 million from women.

In the same year, the federation system raised $908.1 million through its general campaigns, $193 million from women.

And while rumors persist that the federation's umbrella organization, the UJC, has had trouble with sagging attendance numbers for this year's General Assembly, the Lion of Judah conference brought about 400 more attendees than organizers anticipated.

"In the future," Mann said jokingly, "there will be a general campaign and a separate men's campaign." For those women who are the givers, the mission is less about bridging the gap than it is about fulfilling a personal mission.

"The opportunity to give your own gift means that you can express yourself philanthropically in a different way," said Cheryl Fishbein, a board member of a litany of charities, including the UJC and the UJA-Federation of New York.

Before she became involved in the women's campaign 15 years ago, Fishbein's giving was done with her husband or her family.

"We really believe in a lot of the same things, but if it is my own gift, I can have a say in where it is going to go and what it will fund," said Fishbein, who is a Lion of Judah. "And as I have become more knowledgeable on philanthropy, it gave me an opportunity to feel that the things I am most passionate about, I can fund." ■

JCC

JCC Book Festival a success

JCC President Elaine Margolis, JCC Executive Director Leslie Bash, Author Evan Handler, Book Festival Chair Fran Martin, and JCC Cultural Arts Director Julie Gales

Pamela Landau, Stephen Landau, Larry Smith and Sarajane Winkelman at the Sponsor Reception

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's 21st Annual Jewish Book Festival, held November 5–17, was a huge success. Thanks to the individual sponsors, organizational sponsors and corporate sponsors, the week-long festival was able to offer something for everyone. Highlights of the event included a reception and dinner in honor of Book Festival sponsors with author Jeff Zaslow; a local author's brunch; "Lunch & Learns," featuring a wide variety of authors, a JFS-sponsored luncheon featuring Evan Handler, author of *It's Only Temporary;* children's events and more. Book Festival events were catered by Amanda Fisher of Amanda's Catering. Many books and Chanukah gift items are still available for purchase at the JCC.

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Reaching out to Jews, Bahrain posits model for regional cooperation

By Ron Kampeas

NEW YORK (JTA)—Bahrain, the little Persian Gulf nation where pluralism has been the exception to the regional hegemonic rule, is learning that the best way for democracy to survive is to replicate.

Without explicitly saying so, Bahrain is softly encouraging the U.S.-led push for democratization in the Middle East as the means toward stabilization. Its rulers have made their treatment of the tiny Jewish community in Bahrain a showcase of how to achieve peaceful pluralism.

King Hamad bin Issa al-Khalifa met last month in New York with about 50 Bahraini Jews who had immigrated to the United States, and did something almost unheard of in the Arab world: He invited them home.

"It's open, it's your country," he said.

King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa

The offer extended to younger generations and included specifics, including allocation of land for homes.

In a region where efforts to export ideology have often exploded into conflict, Bahraini officials are careful to say that they are pleased only to serve as an example, not as a beach head.

"What we do in Bahrain is for sure for Bahrain, it's not to be exported," Hamad said in an interview with JTA.

Yet it is clear that the nation, host to the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet and a major non-NATO ally of the United States, regards the Bush administration's efforts in keeping with its own reforms. Bahrain officials subtly hint that the U.S. push for democracy in the region is playing catch-up to a country that launched a transition to constitutional monarchy in 1999.

"Our reforms were before September 11," Khalid bin Ahmed al-Khalifa, the Bahraini foreign minister, said in an interview, referring to the terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001. "The American democratic program for the Middle East came after September 11. They thought that extremism is linked to lack of freedom and democracy. Well fine, we agree with that."

Al-Khalifa made it clear that Bahrain would encourage President-elect Barack Obama to continue such reforms.

"We are not putting ourselves as an example," he said. "The new administration, whether it will continue or not—I can tell you the truth, we want them to continue on a program of promoting it."

Taking the lead in reaching out to Israel and to Jews internationally is part of that equation. Hamad stressed that such outreach was made in the context of the Saudi-led "Arab initiative," which posits comprehensive peace in exchange for a return to the borders prior to the 1967 Six-Day War.

"It has been declared that we have this Arab initiative which would really normalize the relationship with Israel as soon as this conflict is over," he told JTA. "And you know very well Bahrain would love to have this conflict gone away from the scene a long time ago, we would love to see that day."

Still, Bahrain is more out front than its neighbors. The nation ended its participation in the Arab League boycott of Israel last year, something Khalifa is still called to defend before the Bahraini parliament.

"I said, we are democratizing, why should we tell people what to do or not to do?" the foreign minister recalled. "If they don't want to buy something, it's up to them. This boycott office is really contrary to our philosophy."

Al-Khalifa cast such thinking as critical to bringing peace to the region, especially ahead of Israeli elections in February that could return hawks to power.

"We need to comfort and put the Israeli mind, citizens, at peace when he goes to the ballot box, that there are partners, not only Mahmoud Abbas," the Palestinian Authority president, "but others in the region."

Al-Khalifa recently proposed a regional grouping that would include Iran and Israel even before agreements are in place as a means to reaching accommodation. Such a grouping would start by dealing with the removal of weapons of mass destruction, sharing diminishing water supplies, and cooperating on environmental controls.

"We need to lay these foundations for the future," the foreign minister said. "Israel is there to stay, Iran is there to stay."

The members of such a theoretical organization do not need to be at peace yet, but the grouping itself would help nudge them toward it, al-Khalifa said.

"How will we govern a treaty without a multilateral body?" he asked.

Practical considerations underpin Bahrain's outreach: The kingdom's oil wealth is expected to dry up within the next two decades, and the nation needs new strategies to thrive in the region. Quitting the Arab boycott was a condition of a free-trade pact with the United States. A peaceful neighborhood would help move development along, al-Khalifa said.

"In Bahrain we are caught between many places and hard places," he said, riffing on the old line about a rock and a hard place. A causeway separates Bahrain from one major theocracy, Saudi Arabia; a gulf separates it from another, Iran.

Bahrain, ruled for centuries by Sunni Muslims, has a Shi'a Muslim majority, and that has led to tensions, at times stoked by Shi'a Iran. Indigenous Shi'a have criticized the king's outreach to Bahraini expatriates, Jewish and otherwise, as a way of containing Shi'a growth. They also note that the island's democracy, although exemplary in the region, is limited: The king still appoints his own cabinet, and the parliament's powers are limited.

Still, the Western-oriented pluralism that Hamad is nurturing arises out of indigenous traditions. Starting in the late 18th century, the al-Khalifa family sough British protections from Persian hegemony, and the country has since welcomed traders, infusing the island with its multicultural sensibility.

The tiny Jewish community—just under 100 in a population of about 800,000—is descended from Iraqi Jews who sought opportunities in the 19th century British Empire. Before the creation of Israel in 1948, some 600 Jews lived in Bahrain. After the war, some emigrated, mostly to the United States and Britain.

The island's smallness also contributes to its all-for-one ethos. Meeting with some Bahraini Jews at the Ritz Carlton in New York last week, the king recognized without prompting the children of Bahraini Jews with whom he grew up. Abraham Ezra was chosen to deliver the greeting on behalf of Bahraini-American Jews, and the foreign minister whispered to the king, "He is the son of Yehezkel Ezra," a merchant murdered years ago by thieves. The king's eyes widened in sorrowful recognition.

Hamad puts his actions where his words are: He appointed a Jewish woman, Houda Nonoo, as ambassador to the United States, and named another, Rose Sager, as U.S. trade representative.

At the meeting in New York, the affection of his Jewish subjects seemed unforced. Many were eager to hear details of his repealing of a law that had stripped expatriate Bahrainis of their citizenship.

"Even the ones whose passports are expired are still Bahrainis," the king said.

"I would like to visit Bahrain and see my friends, my brother and my sister," said Vilma Darwish, who had not been back in 46 years. "They never persecuted them."

Rabbi Levi Shemtov, who runs the Chabad office in Washington, helped set up the meeting and blessed the king. The rabbi described the week's Torah portion, and its tale of smaller kingdoms resisting aggressive, larger neighbors, and the king vigorously nodded.

"To see my king with a rabbi!" one woman said breathlessly.

Shemtov, who attended the meeting with other representatives of national Jewish groups, said the community should welcome Hamad's initiatives.

"If someone who can be effective wants to discuss the present need to confront our common dangers within the parameters of proper recognition of the Jewish people," the rabbi said, "then even if the context doesn't yet exist, we have to seek it." ■

Congressional roundup: Three new Jews, but no rabbi

By Eric Fingerhut

WASHINGTON (JTA)—The U.S. House of Representatives is getting three new Jewish members, but last month's Democratic tide was not strong enough to sink several favorites of Jewish GOPers or to send Congress its first rabbi, Jewish Latina or Chinese Jew.

The 111th U.S. Congress is slated to have 13 Jewish senators and 32 members of the House of Representatives, with the three first-time victories of Democrats Jared Polis of Colorado, John Adler of New Jersey and Alan Grayson of Florida.

But one of the most hotly contested Senate races, pitting two Jewish candidates against each other in Minnesota, has not yet been decided as of this printing.

On election day, Republican incumbent Norm Coleman led Democratic challenger Al Franken by fewer than 700 votes in the Senate race in Minnesota. The slim margin of less than one-half of 1 percent triggered an automatic recount in the race, in which independent Dean Barkley received 15 percent of the vote. Exit polling data showed Barkley pulling votes equally from the Democrat and Republican.

The recount comes after the two candidates spent more than $30 million, mostly attacking each other. Coleman using Franken's background as a writer and performer for Saturday Night Live against him by highlighting jokes that were insensitive to women, while Franken charged that his GOP opponent was too close to big-money "special interests."

In the only other Senate race matching two Jewish candidates, Democrat Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey won his fifth term, defeating the former Republican congressman, Dick Zimmer.

The number of Jewish senators will stay at 13—nine Democrats, two independents who caucus with the Democrats, one Republican and one to be determined in Minnesota.

Meanwhile, in the House of Representatives, Polis, Adler and Grayson will bring the total number of Jewish legislators to 32.

They will be part of the most Democratic Congress since Bill Clinton's first term as president in 1993, when Democrats controlled 258 seats. As of Wednesday morning, the Democrats had a 255-175 margin, with 5 seats still to be decided.

Polis, 33, will make history as the first openly gay, non-incumbent male elected to Congress. He will represent Colorado's heavily Democratic 2nd Congressional District, which includes Boulder and other Denver suburbs.

The Democrat is a multimillionaire Internet entrepreneur who founded the Internet site for his parents' Blue Mountain Arts greeting card company and donated more than $5 million to his own campaign.

During the campaign, Polis emphasized his background as a champion of public education—he is a founder of two Colorado charter schools and a six-year member of the state Board of Education.

The other newcomer is from southern New Jersey. Adler, 49, of Cherry Hill, will move into the seat of retiring Republican and stalwart Israel-backer Jim Saxton. Adler, a 16-year veteran of the state Senate, squeezed by Medford Mayor Chris Myers in the state's 3rd Congressional District, which includes Ocean and Burlington counties, with 51.6 percent of the vote.

Adler's signature achievement in state government was legislation banning smoking in indoor public places; he painted his GOP opponent as a "George W. Bush apologist" during the campaign.

Another Jewish candidate in New Jersey fell short. The "blind rabbi," Dennis Shulman, was unsuccessful in his attempt to knock off three-term incumbent Republican Rep. Scott Garrett in the state's 5th Congressional District, falling by a count of 56-42 percent.

"We did not win the election, but we were right" on issues, including education, health care, the environment and the Iraq war, Shulman said in his concession speech in Paramus, N.J.

The race had become heated in its closing weeks. Shulman, who had received a great deal of national attention for his unique personal story and got the endorsement of New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, had called Garrett "too conservative" for their Bergen County-area district. He also accused Garrett of taking an improper tax break. Garrett denied any wrongdoing and called Shulman "too extreme for New Jersey" in a television advertisement.

Israel became an issue in the campaign when Garrett called on Shulman to "renounce" the endorsement he received from the left-leaning, pro-Israel group J Street. Shulman defended the endorsement, saying he backs the new group's desire to see the United States play a more active role in promoting Israel-Palestinian negotiations. Garrett had received the endorsement of the New Jersey-based, pro-Israel political action committee NORPAC.

Grayson, 50, defeated four-term Republican incumbent Ric Keller to win his seat in a central Florida district that includes parts of Orlando. A native of the Bronx, N.Y., Grayson is an attorney who has investigated government fraud and waste in the Iraq War and defended whistleblowers who have accused defense contractors of misconduct. He wants to pull out of Iraq to free up spending for domestic issues and backs universal health-care coverage.

In Alaska, Jewish Democrat Ethan Berkowitz lost in his challenge to the 18-term Republican incumbent, Rep. Don Young. Young, who is under investigation in the same bribery scandal for which fellow Republican Alaskan, Sen. Ted Stevens, was convicted last month.

In another Republican stronghold with a small Jewish population, Jewish Democrat Gary Trauner was unsuccessful in his second attempt at Wyoming's seat on Capitol Hill. After losing by a little more than 1,000 votes in 2006, Trauner was soundly beaten, by 53-43 percent, by former state treasurer Cynthia Lummis in the race to replace the retiring Republican, Barbara Cubin.

And in Alabama, Jewish Democrat Josh Segall ran a strong race but fell short, losing 53-47 percent to three-term incumbent Republican Mike Rogers. Segall was the rare candidate who stressed his areas of agreement with President Bush, but Rogers attacked the Democrat for being "too liberal" for the Montgomery-area district.

Meanwhile, all six Jewish freshman in the House will return to Washington in January for a second term.

Democrats Steve Kagen in Wisconsin, Paul Hodes in New Hampshire, Ron Klein in Florida, John Yarmuth in Kentucky, Gabrielle Giffords in Arizona and Steve Cohen in Tennessee all won re-election in Novmber.

Kagen had the smallest margin of victory – about six points in a rematch of his 2006 race with Republican John Gard – while all the others won at least 55 percent of the vote. That included Giffords, whose race against Arizona Senate president Tim Bee matched the two former elementary and middle school classmates.

All other Jewish incumbents also won their races. And at least one non-Jewish House member with a lot of fans in the Jewish and pro-Israel community will return to Capitol Hill.

Rep. Mark Kirk, a Republican representing Illinois' 10th Congressional District, which includes Chicago's heavily Jewish North Shore area, won 55 percent of the vote in his rematch with Democrat Dan Seals. The four-term incumbent, who supports abortion rights, is a close ally of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. A member of the House Foreign Affairs appropriations subcommittee, Kirk earlier this year introduced legislation backed by AIPAC that would have punished those selling refined gasoline to Iran.

The race was one of the most expensive House campaigns in the country, with the two candidates spending $6.8 million between them.

A number of other Jewish candidates were defeated on November 3 as they attempted to enter the House for a first term. In Arizona's 3rd Congressional District, Democrat Bob Lord was seen by pundits as having a chance to knock off seven-term GOP incumbent John Shadegg in the Phoenix suburbs, but the Republican triumphed by a 54-42 margin.

In Colorado's 6th District, Democrat Hank Eng fell short in attempting to become the first Jewish Chinese-American in Congress. He received 40 percent of the vote in his race against Colorado Secretary of State Mike Coffman for a seat that has been held by a Republican since it was created in 1980.

In the Miami suburbs, Democrat Annette Taddeo failed to become the first Jewish Latina in Congress. The Colombian-born businesswoman lost to Cuban-born Republican Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a 19-year incumbent who has been a strong advocate for Israel as the ranking minority member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

On the other side of the aisle, four Jewish Republican longshots all lost their races against well-known incumbents. In a matchup between two Jewish women in the Philadelphia-area's 13th Congressional District, Democrat Allyson Schwartz easily defeated Republican Marina Kats, 63 percent to 34 percent. In New York's 5th District, including parts of Queens and Nassau County, Republican Liz Berney received 28 percent of the vote in her race against Jewish Democrat Gary Ackerman.

Also, Republican Steve Greenberg lost by 20 points to Democrat Melissa Bean in Illinois' 8th District, outside of Chicago, and Nick Gerber lost to Ellen Tauscher in California's 10th District by a 34-point margin.

Another Jewish Republican lost an open seat on Staten Island that had been in GOP hands since 1983. Former state Assemblyman Bob Straniere, unpopular with the local Republican Party establishment but the victor in a primary, was routed by Democratic City Councilman Michael McMahon, 61 percent to 33 percent. The seat came open when Vito Fosella decided to leave Congress after his arrest earlier this year on drunk driving charges and the subsequent revelation that the married congressman had a girlfriend and child living in the Washington area.

There were Jewish Democratic longshots who were defeated as well.

In New Jersey's 4th District, Jewish Democrat and history professor Joshua Zeitz received one-third of the vote in his quest to knock off the 28-year Republican incumbent, Rep. Christopher Smith.

In California's 45th District, which includes Palm Springs, former state Assemblywoman Julie Bornstein lost to Republican Mary Bono Mack by a 56-44 margin. And in Virginia's 10th District, outside of Washington, health policy expert Judy Feder lost her second consecutive challenge to the 14-term incumbent Republican, Rep. Frank Wolf, in Virginia's 10th District, garnering 38 percent of the vote compared to Wolf's 60 percent. ■

2008 Elections

The Chosen: Jewish members in the 111th U.S. Congress

The 111th U.S. Congress is slated to have 13 Jewish senators and, with three first-time victories, 32 members of the House of Representatives.

U.S. Senate

Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.)
Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.)
Norm Coleman (R-Minn.)**
Russ Feingold (D-Wisc.)
Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.)
Herb Kohl (D-Wisc.)
Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.)**
Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.)
Carl Levin (D-Mich.)**
Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.)
Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.)
Arlen Specter (R-Pa.)
Ron Wyden (D-Ore.)

House of Representatives

Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.)
John Adler (D-N.J.)*
Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.)
Howard Berman (D-Calif.)
Eric Cantor (R-Va.)
Stephen Cohen (D-Tenn.)
Susan Davis (D-Calif.)
Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.)
Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.)
Bob Filner (D-Calif.)
Barney Frank (D-Mass.
Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.)
Alan Grayson (D-Fla.)
Jane Harman (D-Calif.)
Paul Hodes (D-N.H.)
Steve Israel (D-N.Y.)
Steve Kagen (D-Wisc.)
Ron Klein (D-Fla.)
Sander Levin (D-Mich.)
Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.)
Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.)
Jared Polis (D-Colo.)*
Steve Rothman (D-N.J.)
Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.)
Allyson Schwartz (D-Pa.)
Adam Schiff (D-Calif.)
Brad Sherman (D-Calif.)
Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.)
Henry Waxman (D-Calif.)
Anthony Weiner (D-N.Y.)
Robert Wexler (D-Fla.)
John Yarmuth (D-Ky.)

** Elected to Congress for the first time*

*** Senators who were re-elected (Coleman defeated Democratic challenger Al Franken in Minnesota by fewer than 700 votes, triggering a state-mandated recount. Franken also is Jewish, leaving 13 Jewish senators regardless of who emerges as the winner.)*

Jews look past worries, embrace Obama

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) – For some Jewish voters, the strangeness of Barack Obama was like a recurring dream: unsettling and then settling in, and then, suddenly, revelatory.

Ari Wallach described breaking through to elderly Jews in Florida who had resisted voting for the son of the man from Kenya, the tall black man with the middle name "Hussein."

"It wasn't only his policy on Israel and Iran, on health care," said Wallach, whose JewsVote.org led the "Great Shlep," an effort to prod young adults to get their Jewish grandparents in Florida to vote for Obama. "His biography feels so Jewish, it feels like an Ellis Island archetype. People felt more comfortable when I talked about where he came from, it resonated so deeply—surprisingly among older Jews."

For months, polls showed Obama languishing at about 60 percent of the Jewish vote, a critical chunk short of the 75 percent or so Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) garnered in 2004. But exit polls from the Tuesday election showed Obama matching those results, garnering about 78 percent of the Jewish vote against 22 percent for Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), his Republican rival.

Wallach credited the campaign's late-campaign blitz of Jewish communities, joined by groups like his own, for converting the candidate from stranger to standard bearer for a Jewish ethos. "It resonated much more than I thought it was going through in these parts of the Jewish community," he said.

It was an uphill battle, starting with rumors that Obama was a hidden Muslim, that he wasn't a genuine, born American. The subterranean campaign soon burst through semi-legitimate and then legitimate forums; Obama was not a Muslim, these conservatives and Republicans said, but he might have been raised a Muslim and later had radical associations.

The Republican Jewish Coalition ran ads coupling critiques on Obama's dovish policies with guilt-by-association jabs at his former pastor who embraced Third World liberation theology, at associates at the University of Chicago and during his early political career who had radical pasts, at advisers who had once delivered sharp critiques of Israel and the pro-Israel community. The negative campaign glossed over Obama's deep ties in the Chicago Jewish community and how he has picked a pre-eminently pro-Israel foreign policy team.

Matt Brooks, the RJC's executive director, said the ads raised legitimate questions about Obama's judgment, and had an effect: Obama was outpolling Kerry among Jews by only about 2 percent, he said, whereas he was doing much better than Kerry had among other constituencies, including Catholics, blacks and Hispanics. "This is a huge political tsunami that has hit Republicans across the board," Brooks said, referring to the economic crisis that helped precipitate Obama's blowout win on November 4.

"It's a testament to McCain that we've done as strongly as we have to hold onto our support," he said, noting that Obama's Jewish results lagged slightly behind showings for Al Gore in 2000, and for Bill Clinton in 1992 and 1996.

Brooks said he stood by his group's ad campaign. "There's no reason for regrets," he said. "We had an important and meaningful debate in the community." Democrats said the overwhelming Jewish rejection of the campaign made them proud. "I'm ecstatic by the outcome and the confidence the Jewish community showed Obama in the teeth of some of the nastiest campaigning I've ever seen," said Ira Forman, the executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council. "People got a chance in the last three months to see Barack Obama and the idea that they should be afraid or frightened didn't wash."

Key to the effort were waves of Jewish surrogates—chief among them U.S. Rep. Robert Wexler (D-Fla.)—who blanketed Jewish communities in swing states in the campaign's final weeks. Wexler had been on board with the Obama campaign from the outset. A number of other surrogates who had been loyal to Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) added weight to the campaign once she conceded the primaries race over the summer.

"I've never seen a presidential campaign so well-organized in the Jewish community," Forman said, referring to the Obama outreach effort.

"I really think it's the triumph of hope over fear, of possibility over pessimism," said Rabbi Dayle Friedman, a Philadelphia-area rabbi who served as a co-chair of the national Rabbis for Obama.

"My mother-in-law is a Holocaust survivor in her 80s and she said to me this morning, 'He's a good man, I believe in what he said.'"

Friedman, whose rabbinic focus is serving Jewish senior citizens, spent much of her time reaching out to seniors, who were courted heavily, particularly in swing states, by both campaigns.

"Somehow, the integrity and the urgency of the possibility of this candidate spoke to people way more powerfully than all the nasty scare tactics that were thrown at him," she said.

Echoing the view of many of Obama's most ardent supporters, Friedman called the process of the campaign "just as transformative, if not more, than the results, the millions of volunteers that included so many Jews, old and young, who were so passionately engaged."

It remains to be seen whether the concerns Brooks and the RJC pushed forward will eventuate. In his acceptance speech, Obama once again coupled diplomatic outreach with a tough take-all-comers posture.

"A new dawn of American leadership is at hand," he said. "To those who would tear the world down, we will defeat you; to those who seek peace and security, we support you."

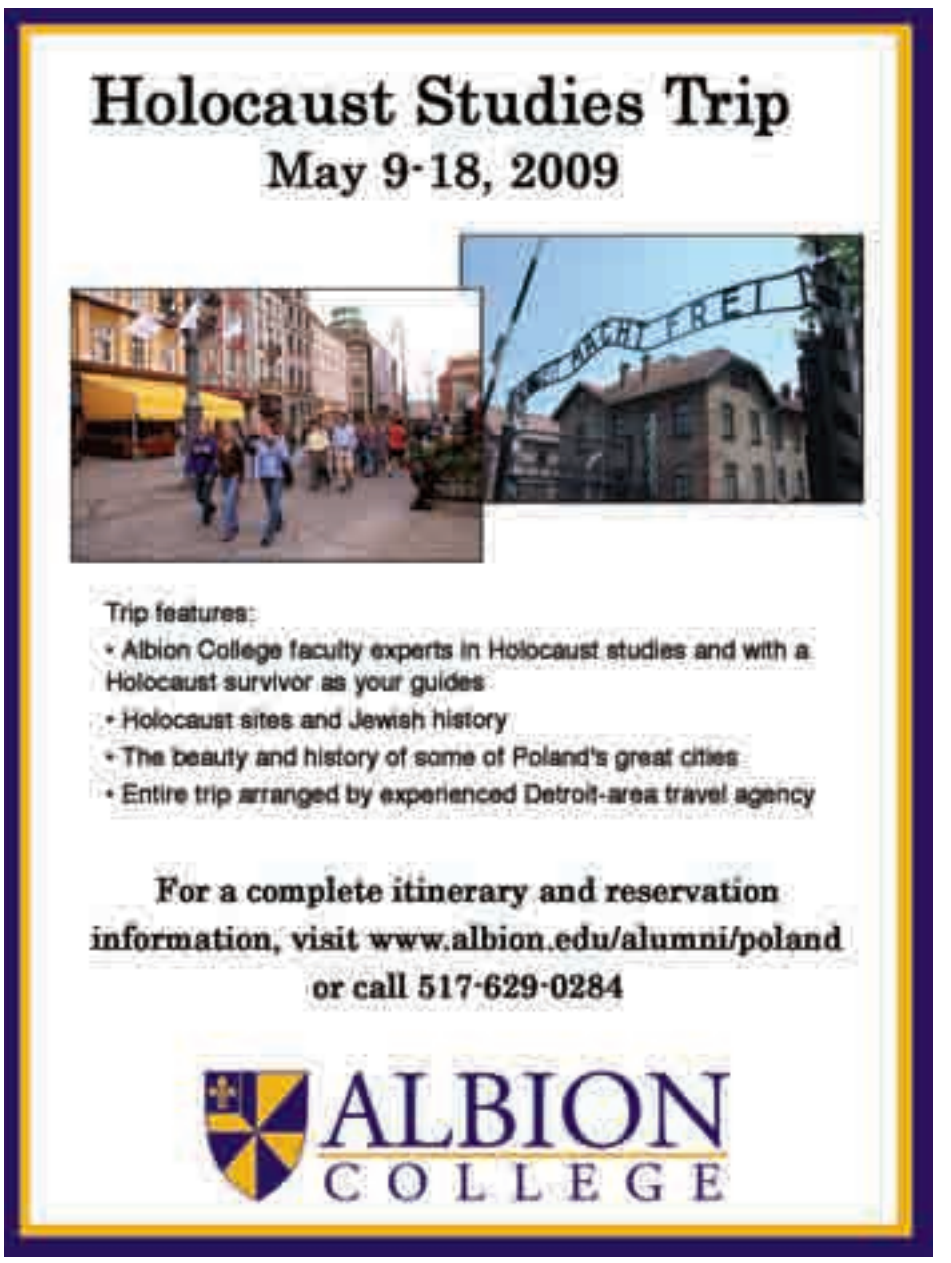
J-Street, the liberal pro-Israel lobby that led a campaign to get Jewish newspapers to reject the RJC ads, said it was vindicated.

"Tonight, American Jews resoundingly rejected the two-year, multimillion dollar campaign of baseless smears and fear waged against him by the right wing of our community," J-Street's director, Jeremy Ben-Ami, said in a statement. "Surrogates and right-wing political operatives in our community stopped at nothing in their efforts to sway Jewish voters against Obama. With exit polls showing Barack Obama's share of the Jewish vote equal to 2004 levels, it is absolutely clear that their efforts failed."

Some Democrats said McCain, once popular among Jews because of his willingness to reach across the aisle, hurt himself in the community by choosing the deeply conservative and relatively inexperienced Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate. An American Jewish Committee poll commissioned in September found that 54 percent of American Jews disapproved of the Palin pick, compared to just 15 percent who disapproved of Obama's decision to tap Sen. Joe Biden (D-Del.).

But Obama's appeal to Jews might have been most deeply rooted in shared values, said Mik Moore, Wallach's partner in JewsVote.org.

"Folks just wanted to be with us, with the more progressive candidate; it's where their heart is," he said. ■



Jerusalem elects secular mayor

By Uriel Heilman

(JTA) – The victory by secular businessman Nir Barkat in Jerusalem's mayoral elections was greeted with relief by Israelis concerned about the increasingly fervently Orthodox character of the city.

Barkat, a city councilman and high-tech entrepreneur, defeated his fervently Orthodox rival, Rabbi Meir Porush, 52 percent to 43 percent, in Tuesday's election. The other high-profile candidate, Russian-Israeli tycoon Arcadi Gaydamak, finished a distant third with less than 4 percent of the vote.

Barkat's election returns control of City Hall to secular hands five years after Jerusalem elected its first fervently Orthodox mayor, Uri Lupolianski. Barkat lost by a narrow margin in 2003.

While Lupolianski, the founder of a highly regarded nonprofit that aids the elderly and disabled, was widely seen as sympathetic to secular concerns, his would-be Orthodox successor, Porush, was not thought to share those sympathies.

Earlier this month, Porush told a fervently Orthodox audience that "in another 15 years there will not be a secular mayor in any city in Israel." His remarks, delivered in Yiddish at a yeshiva, were not intended for public consumption, but Porush was unaware that an Orthodox radio station was broadcasting his remarks live.

During the campaign, Porush's spokesman acknowledged that the candidate, a veteran fixture of Israel's Orthodox political scene and a seventh-generation Jerusalemite, was a proponent of Orthodox-only cities.

The victory by Barkat, a self-made millionaire and venture capitalist, comes at a pivotal time for the Israeli capital.

With one-third of its residents Orthodox and one-third Arab, Jerusalem is Israel's largest city and its poorest. A recent survey of Israel's 15 largest cities ranked Jerusalem last in terms of livability. The city is wracked by political and religious divisions, and its young, secular population is dwindling due to a dearth of affordable real estate, limited job opportunities, and what some decry as its increasingly Orthodox character.

Many Jerusalemites during the campaign pointed to the controversy surrounding a celebration in June marking the opening of a new bridge at the western entrance to the city as emblematic of the battle for Jerusalem's soul.

At the ceremony, a fervently Orthodox deputy mayor compelled a teenage girls' dance troupe to wear hats and long, loose-fitting clothing so as not to offend the sensibilities of Orthodox viewers. Many Jerusalemites and Israelis were outraged, blaming Lupolianski for what they called the Taliban-style outfits.

For these residents of Jerusalem—Modern Orthodox included—Barkat's election is a welcome change from five years of fervently Orthodox leadership.

"There is the sense that if another ultra-Orthodox mayor gets elected, the city's last secular residents will leave," one voter told Israel's Channel 10 News on Election Day. "There's a feeling that this is the last chance for this city."

In his victory speech, Barkat said, "I'm aware of the depth of the challenge and the complexity of the mission. Now is the time to work together for the good of the city."

Nir Barkat (R) shakes hands with a vendor at the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem during the campaign.

Despite Barkat's victory, his political party, Jerusalem Shall Succeed, finished second in City Council elections behind Porush's fervently Orthodox United Torah Judaism.

Tuesday's vote was marred by some irregularities. Barkat voting slips apparently disappeared from some polling stations, and his Web site was victimized by hackers who redirected surfers to Porush's site. At another polling station, a group of Orthodox men reportedly hurled a stone at a police officer, lightly injuring him, in a bid to bar people from voting. Police dispersed the group.

During the campaign, Barkat campaigned on a platform of investing in the city's tourism-based economy and ensuring that Israel's capital city remains majority Jewish.

"We have to build Jerusalem economically," Barkat told JTA in an interview earlier this year. "Jerusalem has only 1.5 million tourists that come annually. We have more to offer than any city. We have to open Jerusalem up to the global tourism marketplace."

While the turnout exceeded the last municipal elections, in 2003, the vast majority of Jerusalem Arabs stuck to their policy of boycotting the city's elections.

Tuesday also saw municipal elections in dozens of other cities and towns across Israel, from Tel Aviv to Sderot. In Tel Aviv, incumbent Ron Huldai handily defeated his challenger.

Turnout nationwide reached about 40 percent, with the election in Jerusalem receiving the highest turnout among large cities. The lowest turnout was in Netanya, where just 7 percent of eligible voters cast their ballots. ■

Israel's left wing realigns ahead of Feb. elections

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA)—With Israel's general election less than three months away, the once all-powerful Labor Party seems to be in disarray.

A new left-wing alliance forming around the dovish Meretz Party seems likely to encroach on its political space. Ex-Shin Bet chief Ami Ayalon, who narrowly lost the June 2007 Labor leadership primary to Ehud Barak, has broken away to form yet another rival alliance. And recent polls show Labor will win only 10 or 11 seats in the next Knesset, down from its current 19 and way off the high of 44 it held 16 years ago.

All this means that for now the only realistic candidates for prime minister are Benjamin Netanyahu of Likud and Tzipi Livni of Kadima.

Many in Labor blame Barak's leadership for what they see as a looming debacle in elections next February. They point to Barak's poor personal relations with top Labor politicians and his failure to draw a clear distinction between Labor and Kadima on the key issues of peace, the economy and the rule of law.

The rumblings of discontent in the party grew louder when Barak recently granted his close supporters Benjamin Ben-Eliezer and Shalom Simchon guaranteed spots on Labor's Knesset list. The move sparked widespread resentment among other top Labor leaders who will have to win their places in arduous and costly nationwide primaries.

For Ayalon it was the last straw. Ophir Pines-Paz, often cited as a future party leader, also considered leaving but relented. Both Ayalon and Pines-Paz sought but failed to get a promise from Barak not to join a coalition led by Netanyahu.

The new left-center alliance anchored by Meretz will present its Knesset list and candidate for prime minister by mid-December. It hopes the influx of ex-Labor heavyweights will help propel Meretz into a double-digit showing in the next Knesset and prevent Netanyahu from forming the next government.

The idea behind the new alliance is to tap into the reservoir of voters who identify with center-left positions but have been alienated from Labor under Barak.

At a November 14 news conference announcing the group's establishment, novelist Amos Oz declared that Labor had "played out its historical role" and that the new alliance would take over as the main party of peace and social democracy.

Among the founders are former Laborite and Knesset speaker Avraham Burg and ex-Barak aide Tzali Reshef.

The reasons for Labor's decline go beyond Barak's "highly problematic" leadership, Reshef says. He argues that the party lost its credibility by playing both sides of most key issues.

"You can't be a party that says it wants peace with the Palestinians and be the big Jewish settlement builder," Reshef told JTA, saying Barak expresses solemn commitments to peace one day while authorizing new settlement construction in the West Bank the next. "This double-talk doesn't work anymore. People want politicians without masks who tell them the truth, even when it is difficult to swallow."

Critics of the new left-wing alliance say it will succeed only in drawing votes away from Labor, reallocating seats within the Knesset's center-left bloc rather than enlarging the bloc and stopping the Likud from coming to power.

Reshef, however, believes the new alliance and Labor will pick up seats from small, one-issue parties and Kadima. In Reshef's view Kadima's hawks, among them Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz, will draw votes away from Likud, critically altering the balance of power in favor of the center-left.

"What is important is that the electorate as a whole moves leftward and that we have enough seats to prevent the right from forming a government," Reshef says. "At the end of the day, that's what the election is all about."

To what extent Ayalon's departure will hurt Labor is unclear. Ayalon had hoped to lead the new left-wing Meretz alliance but failed to reach an agreement with Meretz leader Haim Oron. In the end, Ayalon broke away and formed a new alliance with Rabbi Michael Melchior of the left-leaning Orthodox Meimad party.

Announcing his move, Ayalon declared that while Barak was "not Labor's problem," he was "not the solution" either. Ayalon said he couldn't even persuade his own family members to vote Labor.

The fact that Ayalon failed to close a deal with the new Meretz-led alliance does not augur well for its showing in next February's election. It suggests there could be damaging clashes over who will lead and represent the alliance in the Knesset. Labor leaders dismiss the new alliance as a passing fad.

Meanwhile, as Labor struggles, Likud is picking up steam.

At a central committee meeting Sunday, Netanyahu showed off a gallery of old and new stars that recently have joined or rejoined the party, including Benny Begin, the son of the first Likud prime minister; former Cabinet minister Dan Meridor; ex-police chief Asaf Hefetz, who defected from Labor; and former national security adviser Uzi Dayan.

In Likud, those who clashed bitterly with Netanyahu when he was prime minister in the late 1990s, like Begin and Meridor, have made their peace with him.

In Labor, Barak's close associates from his time as prime minister are running against him. While the general sense in the party is of people deserting a sinking ship, Likud has a sense of new and old Knesset hopefuls jumping on the winning bandwagon.

Barak has less than 90 days to turn things round, and Netanyahu less than 90 days to avoid making mistakes. But the first big election posters going up around Israel feature neither candidate.

They show the confident-looking Kadima candidate for prime minister with the slogan "Tzipi Livni is what is good for the country." The question for Livni, the current foreign minister, is whether all this realignment on the left will help or hinder her. That will become clearer in the coming weeks. ■

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

7-8:30 pm at the JCC

Patient Partner Volunteer Recruitment Meeting

Learn about our new patient advocacy program, "Patient Partners," and see if this is the right volunteer opportunity for you. For details, contact Deborah Renner at 769-0209 or deborah@jfsannarbor.org.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

7-9 pm at Washtenaw Community College
Morris Lawrence Building

How to Keep Being a Parent... When Your Child Stops Being a Child

This presentation is a practical guide to parenting adolescents by Nic Cooper, M.A., Ed.D. and Rick McCoy, LMSW, M.A. Free. Registration is required. RSVP to Lisa at 769-0209 or lisa@jfsannarbor.org.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Noon at the JCC

Deliver Hanukkah Gifts to Older Adults in the Community

Delivery will follow a bagel brunch and brief training. A great activity for families, teens, groups, or anyone who wants to bring a smile to the face of a senior! For details and to RSVP, contact Deborah Renner at 769-0209 or deborah@jfsannarbor.org.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:30-8 pm at the JCC

Finding the Joy in Caregiving

This Caregivers Conversations' session will focus on the subtle blessings and joys in caring for an aging parent. We will discuss activities to do with your parent to enhance and enjoy your time together. Free. RSVP to Abbie at 769-0209 or abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Deliver Motor Meals

Members of the Jewish community take over the Motor Meals delivery for Christmas Day! Volunteers will meet at the Motor Meals office, receive training and deliver holiday meals in their own vehicles. RSVP to Deborah Renner at 769-0209 or deborah@jfsannarbor.org.

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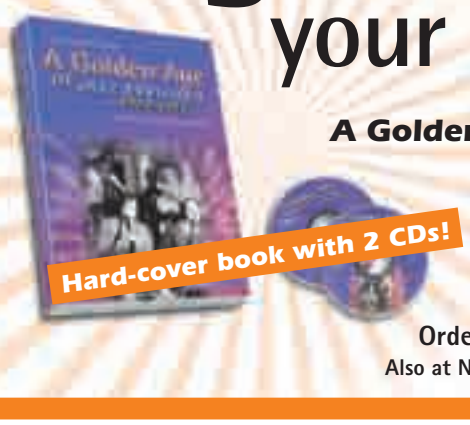

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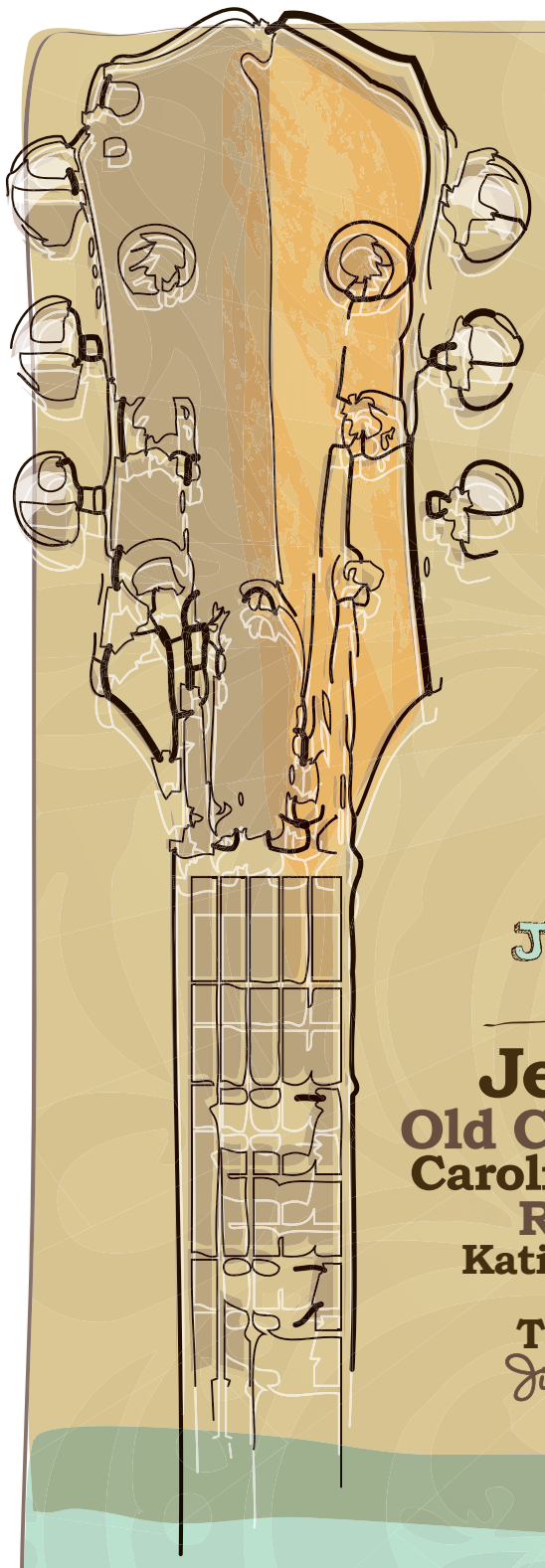

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Gerald Ross, with music in his life

Sandor Slomovitz, staff writer.

Back in the late 1970s I remember seeing Gerald Ross play Mozart's *Rondo a la Turk* on solo guitar—no small feat—to accompany famed percussionist Percy Danforth, who played the bones. Long a familiar face on the Ann Arbor and national acoustic music scene for his work with the Lost World String Band, among others, Ross, besides being an excellent guitar player, is also accomplished on Hawaiian steel guitar and Cajun accordion. In the past few years he's taken up the ukulele and has played and taught at ukulele festivals from Portland to New York, from Chicago to Dallas.

WJN: Did you grow up in a musical family?

Gerald Ross: No. Not musical at all. I'm the only person in my family who played music. All three of my brothers had music lessons in school. I never did. I grew up in Detroit and in the Detroit Public Schools system you get your musical instrument in fifth grade. When I was in fifth grade we were in the process of moving from Detroit to Southfield, and so somehow, when I brought home the note from the music teacher, it got lost [laughter] and I never had any music lessons.

My first experience in showbiz was in my synagogue choir. From the time I was ten years old, until I was thirteen, a little after my bar mitzvah, I was in our all-boy synagogue choir in Southfield.

WJN: Which synagogue?

Ross: B'nai David. My grandfather was so proud of me. He thought I was going to become a rabbi. I had no intention of becoming a rabbi. To me it was total showbiz. I just liked the idea of singing. We had wonderful harmonies, we had costumes, and we were treated like stars, we got to hang out backstage. The only hard part was getting there every Saturday morning at seven. But I just loved the whole showbiz aspect of it. We were all young kids. We drove the cantor nuts. He tried to keep us in line and we were a bunch of twelve-year old kids, but we did sing well together.

Then I started to play guitar when I was fourteen, when every kid in the neighborhood had a guitar. This was about 1967, 1968. A friend of mine showed me how to play a couple chords on the guitar and I was amazed. I was able to make music! I went over to his house every day after school and played those two chords over and over. [Laughter]

WJN: That's exactly how I started, too.

Ross: I remember I bugged my parents to buy me a guitar for my birthday. It was at Montgomery Wards, a thirty-dollar guitar. I told them, "I'll pay for half of it, if you'll pay for half of it." They thought, "OK." And it stuck.

When I was fifteen, I joined a high school rock band. I went to the first rehearsal and there were ten guitar players there, and I said to myself, "There is no way I'm going to get in this band." That night, I went out and bought a used electric bass. The action was this high off the fingerboard. [Gerald holds his hands apart to show how far off the neck the strings were, and laughs.] And the next day, I was the bass player in the band. A couple of months after that, I got my first paying gig. We were real bad. [Laughter]

WJN: That's where we all start.

Ross: We got a job playing for a teen dance at a local community center on a Saturday night. We knew four of five songs and we played them over and over again, all night long. At the end of the night I got eleven bucks. [Laughter] I couldn't believe it. I had eleven bucks in my hand!

WJN: So did you at that point think, music career?

Ross: No. I just liked playing music. I went through high school and moved up here to go to college. I went to Eastern, but I lived in Ann Arbor the whole time.

WJN: What did you study at Eastern?

Ross: Psychology. I got my degree in psychology, but I played music throughout college. I played bluegrass in a band called Stony Creek, back in the '70s for three or four years. We had an every Friday and Saturday night gig at the Spaghetti Bender in Ypsilanti. I got real sick of bluegrass, but it was good money. It paid my rent.

Gerald Ross

Then I moved with my girlfriend, who is now my wife, to Lansing, because she was going to medical school at Michigan State. And I fell in with the Elderly Instruments crowd. [*WJN note:* Elderly Instruments is one of the largest, best known folk music instrument stores in the country.] I started playing with the Lost World String Band. I'm still playing with them. We played on Prairie Home Companion a couple of times. That has gotten us a lot of gigs. It's amazing how many doors that opened for us.

WJN: What is your day job, now. Did you continue with psychology?

Ross: No. I graduated with a psychology degree and immediately became a full-time musician. [Laughter] While I was playing with Lost World, you know, we were making enough money to starve. I was also working at Elderly Instruments and giving music lessons. That helped pay the rent. I did that till I was 29 years old. That year, Lost World was putting out our first LP. For a year before we put out the LP we'd go to all our gigs with a little spiral notebook, put it on the front of the stage and tell people, "We're putting out an album, write your name down on the list and we'll send you a letter when the album comes out." So, a couple of weeks before the album came out, Paul Winder, our fiddle player, who was then working as a computer programmer at Michigan State, said to me, "You want to see what I do every day?" He said, "We have to write a program to generate mailing labels, so we can send people notification about this LP." You know, back then you couldn't buy programs. You had to write all this stuff yourself. So I went with him to his office and he showed me how computer programs work. And it just made sense to me. It made total sense how it all worked, and I decided, "Well, you know the music thing is OK, but I would like to have a nice steady paycheck coming in." So I went back to Washtenaw Community College and I got a two-year Information Sciences degree in nine months because I already had a Bachelor's Degree. I started working as a programmer in 1983.

WJN: And that's what you've done since?

Ross: Yes. I started at little companies around Ann Arbor that had great ideas, but went out of business. Then in 1991 I started working at the University as a programmer. And I've risen up through the ranks, [Gerald adopts a mock-pompous tone] and now I'm a senior software engineer!

WJN: What kind of music did you listen to as a kid?

Ross: My mother and father's record collection had the Barry Sisters, they had Theodore Bikel. My grandmother lived in our neighborhood in Detroit, and in her basement she had one of those windup Victrolas, and she had all these old 78s, old Yiddish klezmer 78s. Remember on the TV show, *Hee-Haw*, how they'd play the banjo real fast, then stop and tell a joke? She had these klezmer records where they did the same thing! They'd play the clarinet real fast, then they'd stop and tell a joke in Yiddish. [Laughter] And I would listen to those records. But the funny thing was, she had all these klezmer records, but buried in there was a Chuck Berry 78 of *Johnny B. Good.* [Laughter] I don't know where that came from.

And then, you know, growing up in the 1960s we had Beatles records and all sorts of things. I liked the acoustic music, the folky stuff.

WJN: When did you discover the ukulele and steel guitar?

Ross: Steel actually started before bluegrass. For five or six months I was in a Western Swing band called Armadillo Rose in Ann Arbor. Mark Erlewine of the Erlewine brothers played pedal steel in that band. I was exposed to that music then, but that was pedal steel guitar. I don't play the pedal steel guitar. I play the electric lap steel. That's the big religious divide in the steel guitar world.

When I was with Lost World I played slide guitar, blues slide guitar in open D tuning. I always liked the sound of Hawaiian music but I couldn't figure out how they got that sound. I just couldn't get it out of open D tuning. And there was no instructional material for this kind of music back then.

In 1997, my wife and my two sons went to Disney World in Florida for a vacation. We went to the Polynesian Review, and they had a really good Hawaiian band there. They had a wonderful steel guitar player who I've since become friends with. I watched the whole show, came home and said, "OK, you gotta figure out how to do this." I went up to Elderly, bought a steel guitar, started looking around to see where I could learn to play this thing, and found out about the Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association. They have a yearly convention in Joliet, Illinois. So, I went there by myself. I was scared. I didn't know anyone there. I didn't know what to expect. It was incredible. It was the friendliest group of people. They took me under their wing. They said, "No, you're doing it all wrong." They showed me how to tune it to get the Hawaiian sound and all of a sudden this whole world opened up.

WJN: And that's how the ukulele came about, too?

Ross: No, that's just since 2004. When I worked at Elderly we sold ukuleles. I knew how to play a couple of chords. I never really paid much attention to it. In December of 2004, I wanted to buy myself a present and I went on the Internet and I saw this really cool ukulele, all solid wood, for $150 bucks. I said, "What the hell, it'll be fun. I'll leave it on the coffee table. It's small, I can easily grab it, play a few tunes." So it came, and it was a pretty good instrument. It played beautifully all up and down the neck, it had nice tone.

I have a recording studio in my basement, where I record into my computer. After I had the uke for a month or so, I was accumulating a nice repertoire of tunes, and I noticed that there was a bulletin board for ukulele players on the Internet and some people were posting songs. So, I recorded two songs, and I posted them on the Flea Market Music Bulletin Board. Literally, within fifteen minutes, I was getting emails. "How long have you been playing? What tunings do you use? Who are your influences? Do you give lessons? Can I come over to your house?"

Honestly, when I bought that uke, I thought I was the only person in the world still playing them. [Laughter] I didn't know how big the whole thing was. Those two songs rocketed me to stardom in the ukulele world! [Laughter] Then I recorded a couple more songs, (by now I have 30 or 40 songs on my website that people can download for free) and more and more people started hearing me and I decided to put out a CD. I now have another one out and I'm working on a third one.

With that first CD and the Internet, I started getting gigs. I started getting invited to all these ukulele festivals. I was even invited to the Maui Festival this year, which sounds very impressive, but it's spelled M.A.U.I, which stands for the Mid-Atlantic Ukulele Invitational, [Laughter] held in Annapolis, Maryland.

Continued on page 26

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to nibble on carrots sticks and water.

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Stories from Bishop Tutu

Rabbi Robert Levy, special to the WJN

Archbishop Desmond Tutu told this story. Recently in Amsterdam a 400 year old elementary school honored Bishop Tutu. The school was renamed the Desmond Tutu School. At the ceremony to mark the change, a young student from the school asked the Archbishop if he were the school's founder.

The mistake was not so far from the truth as Bishop Tutu is one of those founders of modern righteous. We live in a world awash with opportunities for inhumanity on ever growing scales. Desmond Tutu is a foundation stone for justice.

Tutu came to Hill Auditorium on October 29 to accept the University of Michigan Wallenberg Medal and give the Raoul Wallenberg Lecture. Wallenberg and Tutu are well placed in the same thought. Without them and precious other few, our age would be far darker: with them goodness has more than once prevailed over the tide of evil. Tutu is a pastor to the world and a champion for humanity.

He said, "We are the God carriers. Our worth is intrinsic. Each one of us is a stand in for God." Perhaps not the first time such sentiments were ever uttered. Several rabbinic maxims come to mind. Yet here stood a man aquatinted with the evil of oppression bordering on servitude who prevailed with holiness.

Another story: In South Africa most white people did not bother to learn the names of their black servants. The women were all called "Sarah," and the men "boy." His father was a school headmaster called "boy." As a child, Tutu wondered how his father bore this public humiliation. Then soon after returning to South Africa from England he learned. His daughter wanted to play in a playground with some other children. Over her dismay and protests he needed to refuse her innocent request. Such is the truest cost of oppression. As Bishop Tutu said, "Dignity trod under foot."

From his greeting of "Good evening," and our response, Archbishop Tutu showed humanity, not achievement; gentleness, not deserved greatness. The lecture was marked by friendly wisdom, not an expert's knowledge. A pastor's touch.

There was righteous indignation. A finger pointed at the evils of the world. No one was led to believe that a sweet, kind, Godly disposition would fix the world. Yet the charge to fight for righteous rested on the foundation of God and God's goodness.

He told a story of a woman who felt enriched by the terrorist attack that left her to this day filled with shrapnel. He told stories of ordinary human beings who committed the unspeakable. He told us that we can be that evil and that, more gloriously, we have the incredible capacity for goodness, for transcendence, for kindness.

Tutu pointed us to a world in which the strutting evil falls under the power of love. Yes, voting for the first time at the age of 63 in the land of his birth, Bishop Tutu told us of love. And as we were gathered in admiration, he thanked us in deep honesty and joyous laughter for our part in the struggle for South African freedom. Though he jokingly made us all citizens of South Africa, we seriously felt kinship with this rock of goodness. ■

Gerald Ross, continued from page 25

WJN: The last time I saw you in concert you sat in with the Cleveland-based klezmer band, Yiddishe Cup, at the Ark Coffeehouse. It was fun to hear you play pedal steel with them. Not your typical klezmer instrument!

Ross: It's comic relief. You know, the Jewish guy on the Hawaiian guitar.

WJN: How did you and Yiddishe Cup meet?

Ross: My wife is an alumnus of U-M and in the late '90s, she said, "We've heard about this Camp Michigania thing. Let's give it a try one year." So we went up to Michigania and we walked into this crowd of people that have known each other for years and the first night you're there, if you're a newcomer you get up and introduce yourself and then all the old timers introduce themselves. After my wife and I introduced ourselves, Bert Stratton stood up. And everyone has known Bert for years there. He said, "Hi, my name is Bert Stratton and I'm a klezmer musician." And everyone in the room laughed. So, afterwards, I walked up to him and I said, "Are you really a klezmer musician, or were you just joking back there?" He said, "No, I really am. I've got my clarinet back in my room." I said, "Well, I've got my guitar here. Do you want to play some tunes?" We played tunes together all week long at Michigania.

WJN: How about music in your family now? Are your kids also musicians?

Ross: My oldest son, David, is 23, and Jonathan is 19, and they're both musicians. They both went to Pioneer and David played saxophone in the band and Jonathan played trumpet. But they each have three or four guitars; both play bass and ukulele, because there's always some laying around. So it's really easy to play music with them at home.

WJN: Twenty years ago did you have any idea that this is what you'd be doing in music now?

Ross: No. To be really honest with you, it's been the ukulele and the steel guitar that have opened everything up for me. I've always played guitar, and I've always thought I was a pretty good guitar player, but there are a zillion guitar players out there and there are a zillion guitar players that are better than me out there. [Laughter] But with the ukulele and steel guitar, I've found this really nice little niche. People seem to really like it and I'm getting better gigs with the steel and the uke than I did with the guitar. The scary thing is that I'm considered an old timer now. I don't know how the hell that happened! [Laughter]

One thing I really like about the ukulele, I notice when I go to these weeklong camps, or weekend long camps, most of the people who go to those things are baby boomers. Some of them are people who gave up music. They played guitar when they were in college or high school and they gave up for whatever reason. They got tired of it, they couldn't get past the F chord.

WJN: Bar chords, the bane of all beginning guitarists.

Ross: Yes, bar chords. And they decided they were total failures. Well, many times, they weren't failures, they just had lousy instruments. They couldn't push the strings to the fingerboard. There is no way anyone could play those instruments. But when I go to the uke camps now, it's amazing to see these people play the ukulele, because it's so easy to get a pleasant sound out of it, so easy and so fast. And all of a sudden they have music in their lives again. It's really nice to see. ■

Oy Chanukah, Oy Chanukah come heat up the oil

Judy Cohen, food editor

In Jewish tradition Chanukah is a minor holiday, but its juxtaposition with Christmas has made it more prominent. Chanukah is another one of those holidays about which we wryly say, "They tried to kill us, we won, let's eat." However, because Chanukah is specifically about religious freedom, it has always seemed ironic to me that it does come so close to Christmas, when we need to be extra vigilant to make sure our children see our religion as at least as appealing as Santa Claus, the sparkling decorations, and the beautiful Christian songs that swirl around us for more than a month.

Chanukah has always been one of my favorite holidays. I always loved the story of how a small band of dedicated men using guerilla warfare fought the Greek-Syrian tyrant Antiochus, who forced them to give up their religion and bow down to idols. I always wondered how they could possibly win. It wasn't until many years later that I heard about Yehudit (Judith, which is also my name). Her story is not typically mentioned, and the Maccabees generally get all the credit. Yehudit was a widow who won the confidence of the Syrian-Greek general, Halifornus. She fed him salty cheese and wine till he was drunk and sleepy, then she decapitated him. She hung his head out of the window and when the enemy army saw that, they were demoralized and the Maccabee victory was ensured. Of course, the next step was to re-dedicate the plundered temple and re-kindle the light over the ark. They found only enough oil for the light to last one day, but miraculously it lasted for eight days, until new supplies arrived.

Because of the miracle of the oil, we celebrate the holiday for eight days, and it is customary to eat foods cooked in oil. In the Eastern European (Ashkenazic) tradition potato pancakes (latkes in Yiddish) are typically served with applesauce or sour cream on the side. In Israel (which has a Sephardic tradition) deep-fried jelly donuts, called *sufganiot*, are expected. A variation on this would be fritters made from apples or other fruit. In honor of Yehudit, it is also customary to serve dairy foods.

My mother used an old-fashion grater and hand grated all of the potatoes and onions for her latkes. It was time consuming and laborious, yet she still produced a large quantity of delicious, fluffy latkes whose fragrant, oily aroma filled the entire house. Today, I use a blender, because it is quick and easy and produces batter I can pour into the frying pan. My daughter prefers a food processor, using the blade that cuts the potatoes in coarse strips, so that the latkes come out more like hash browns. Since latkes are not so good for the waistline, some people try to be a little healthier and substitute carrots, sweet potatoes, or cauliflower. It is also possible to bake them instead of frying. There are endless variations.

While my mother made the latkes, I rolled out the dough for the sugar cookies, cut them with specially shaped Chanukah cookie cutters, and sprinkled them with colored sugar. One of the nicest presents I ever received from a non-Jewish colleague at an office party was a huge plate of similar cookies.

Chanukah is also known as the festival of lights. Candles are lit in a special candelabra commonly called a menorah (although, technically, it is a *hanukia*) each night for eight nights. I have fond memories of lighting the candles, chanting the prayer, then singing various Chanukah songs with my parents and my brother. My childhood menorah was typical of the one many families had: The grocery stores, or maybe the synagogues, used to give them away free. It was a flimsy flat menorah that looked like brass, but was probably tin. It bent easily and was difficult to clean. We usually threw it away at the end of the holiday. The candles were all uniform yellow/gold. I think they came from Israel, but there was no variation or beautiful choices like we have now. Today I collect menorahs. I have many unique, beautiful, and interesting choices and a variety of pretty candles. I let the grandchildren or guests each pick one and we may light several of them on any given night.

After the candles are lit, we sit down to a healthy dairy meal. There are latkes and *sufganiyot*, but unlike the childhood days, they are now a side dish instead of the main focus. ■

Sufganiyot, kid-friendly with adult helper

1 scant T. (1 pkg) dry yeast
4 T. sugar (½ for recipe, ½ for coating finished doughnuts)
¾ c. lukewarm milk or warm water*
2½ c. all-purpose flour
pinch of salt
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
2 eggs, separated
1 stick butter or pareve margarine, softened*
apricot or strawberry preserves
vegetable oil for deep-frying
*use margarine and water for pareve, milk and butter for dairy

Child: Mix together the yeast, 2 T. of the sugar, and the milk or water. Let it sit to make sure it bubbles (about 5 minutes). Sift the flour and mix it with the remaining sugar, salt, cinnamon, egg yolks, and yeast mixture.

Adult with Child: Knead the dough until it forms a ball. Add the butter or margarine. Knead some more, until the butter is well absorbed. Cover with a towel and let rise overnight in the refrigerator. (If you're short on time, you really need only let this rise in a warm place about 2 hours, sometimes less.)

Adult: Roll out the dough into a thickness of 1/8 inch.

Child: Cut the dough into 24 rounds using a juice glass or any object about 2 inches in diameter. Take ½ tsp. of the preserves and place in the center of 12 rounds. Top each with the other 12 rounds. Press down at edges, sealing with egg whites. (Crimping with the thumb and second finger is best.) Let rise for about 30 minutes.

Adult: Heat 2 inches of oil to about 375°. Drop the doughnuts in the hot oil, about 5 at a time. Turn to brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels.

Child: Roll the doughnuts in sugar (plain or powdered; cinnamon, sugar, chocolate, or Nutella are all nice, too).

from The Children's Jewish Holiday Kitchen *by Joan Nathan*

Cauliflower latkes

2 eggs plus 2 egg whites
1 small onion, peeled
a two-pound package of frozen cauliflower, thawed and drained very well or 1 fresh head, steamed, and drained very well
2 T. soy or whole wheat flour
Salt and pepper to taste
non-stick cooking spray
2 T. olive oil for frying

Process eggs and onion using a food processor and steel cutting blade until chopped well. Add cauliflower, flour, and seasonings. Mix until finely chopped. Do not over process. Wipe a non-stick frying pan with a paper towel dipped in oil and spray the pan with non-stick cooking spray. Put on medium heat. Wait until hot, then drop batter by tablespoonful into pan. Fry, turning once, 4–5 minutes, until firm and browned on both sides. Makes 16 servings.

from KosherFood.About.com

Easy blender potato pancakes

¼ cup milk
2 eggs
3 c. diced raw potatoes (about 2 large or 3 medium potatoes)
1 small onion, quartered
3 T. flour
1 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. baking powder

Put all ingredients in blender in order listed. Cover and run on speed 7 (or high) just until all potatoes go through blades, about 10 seconds. (Do not over-blend or potatoes will be liquefied.) Pour small amounts onto a hot, greased griddle or frying pan. Fry, turning once, until brown on both sides. Makes 18 pancakes.

from The Blender Way to Better Cooking, *Hamilton Beach kitchens*

Carb-free, low-fat cheese balls

1½ c. farmer cheese
½ c. 5% soft white cheese or low-fat ricotta (well drained)
1 c. low-fat grated yellow cheese (muenster, cheddar, etc.)
¼ c. scallions, minced
1 T. Worcestershire sauce
Garnishes
1 T. sweet or sharp paprika
1/3 c. minced dill
1/3 c. minced parsley
1/3 c. roasted nuts, coarsely chopped
1/3 c. roasted sesame seeds,

Mix all ingredients together and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Form the mixture into small balls and roll in any or all of the garnishes. Refrigerate in an airtight container for up to 2 days. (It is not recommended to prepare these in advance and freeze.)

Sweet variation: Omit scallions. Add ½ tsp. vanilla extract and roll in cinnamon.

Chinese variation: Use 1 T. light soy sauce instead of the Worcestershire and roll in minced fresh ginger.

from Nechama Cohen (no relation) EnLITEned Kosher Cooking

December 2008

Monday 1

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9:30 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing*.

Learn Haftorah Trop: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose. Noon. *Every Monday.*

Open House for Prospective Parents: Hebrew Day School. Learn about the outstanding academic and Judaic/Hebrew program for kindergarten through grade five. For information or to RSVP, email Abby Weinberg at aweinberg@hdsaa.org or call 971-4633. 7 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE Sisterhood. Led by Cantor Annie Rose using the newly published WRJ Womens' Torah Commentary. 7:30–8:30 p.m. Afterwards, Cantor Rose will offer a 20-minute chapel meditation. Also December 15, January 5, and 26.

Text Study: BIC. "Jewish Perspectives on the Beginning and End of Time." With Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 2

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group). All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Blood Pressure Clinic: JCC Seniors. A registered nurse from Care Response will take blood pressures, record them, and address any questions. 1 p.m. *First Tuesday each month.*

Chanukah Extravaganza: EMU Hillel. 7 p.m. at the EMU Student Center.

"Shulchan Aruch–Creating a New Guide to Jewish Living:" TBE. Three-part class taught by Rabbi Robert Levy. 7:30 p.m. *Also December 9.*

Jewish Learning Institute. Fall semester class "Soul Maps," using Kabbalah to navigate your inner world. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud, and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussions in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Wednesday 3

Lunch and Learn: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin and Rabbi Blumenthal. Bring a dairy lunch, drinks and dessert provided. Noon.

Board Meeting: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Alternative Spring Break: Building and Bridging Part II: EMU Hillel. 7:30 p.m. at UM Hillel.

"Introduction to Judaism:" BIC. Taught by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. Class starts at 7:45 p.m. although students are encouraged to join the congregation for evening Ma'ariv service at 7:30 p.m. Free 12-session course.

Thursday 4

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4/session or $10/3; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky. Contact Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for current book. 2:15 p.m.

Birthdays and Rabbi Dobrusin: JCC Seniors. Celebration for all with birthdays in December. Friends and family welcome to join for lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m., followed by presentation and discussion led Rabbi Robert Dobrusin from Beth Israel Congregation at 1 p.m.

Bake and Take: TBE Sisterhood. Come to the TBE kitchen and help bake and stock up the freezer for coming *onegs* and bring some goodies home for your family. 2–4 p.m.

Patient Partner Volunteer Recruitment: JFS. Learn about the important new JFS patient advocacy program "Patient Partners," and see if this is the right volunteer opportunity for you. For information, contact Deborah Renner at 769-0209 or email Deborah@jfsannarbor.org.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation, and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate *Taanit* chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 5

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Coffee and Chill with Hillel: EMU Hillel. 5 p.m. at EMU Student Center Starbucks.

Stress Less Shabbat: EMU Hillel. 6 p.m. at EMU Hillel

First Friday Shabbat: JCS. This year's theme is Local Ann Arbor, featuring a different place around town each month. The focus will be on local favorites, locally owned businesses, and locally grown foods. $10/dinner per person; $25/family of 4. RSVP at www.jewishculturalsociety.org to ensure that enough food is ordered. 6:30 p.m. in JCC Lounges.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 6

Shabbat Limud: BIC. Shabbat Learning facilitated by Rabbi Dobrusin. Discussion of weekly Torah portion over coffee and cakes. 9 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Teen Shabbat: BIC. Shabbat Schmooze at Rabbi Dobrusin's home. 4 p.m.

"Jewish Economic Philosophy and the Spirituality of Interconnection:" Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. Talk by writer Lawrence Bush with a special focus on Chanukah as a time for increasing tzedakah. Follows a brief Havdalah service and a vegetarian potluck supper. 6 p.m. at the JCC. For information, or to arrange childcare, phone 663-7933.

Latkes and Vodkas: Hadassah. Dinner at Mediterrano Restaurant. $30/person. For information, call Martha Young at 769-7523 or email youngmarth@comcast.net.

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of tcalendar.*

Sunday 7

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Chanukah Bazaar: BIC. Sponsored by Women's League. 9:30 a.m.

Chanukah Bazaar: JCS. Menorahs, jewelry, dreidels, books, games, crafts, candles, gift items, decorations, and more will be for sale from 10 a.m.–noon. In the JCC hallways. *Also December 14.*

Sunday Schmooze: JCS. Lawrence Bush will discuss his new book *Waiting for God: the Spiritual Experiences of a Reluctant Atheist.*" For information, call 975-9872. 10 a.m. at the JCC.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Concert: JCC. Chaverim B'Shirim in concert performing music by Jerry Herman. Donation suggested. 3 p.m. at the JCC.

Shir Chadash Café: TBE. Middle School Café. 4:30 p.m.

Nuts and Bolts – the B'nai Mitzvah Workshop: TBE Sisterhood. Past b'nai mitzvot parents will offer their best advice and answer questions. Also, come meet party planners, caterers, and other vendors. 6 p.m. at TBE.

Social Action Hechsher Tzedek Program: BIC. With Rabbi Allen. 7:30 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 8

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing. (See 12/1)*

Learn Haftorah Trop: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose. Noon. *Every Monday.*

Text Study: BIC. "Jewish Perspectives on the Beginning and End of Time," with Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 9

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367. *(See 12/2)*

"Shulchan Aruch–Creating a New Guide to Jewish Living:" TBE. Three-part class taught by Rabbi Robert Levy. 7:30 p.m.

Jewish Learning Institute: Fall semester class "Soul Maps," using Kabbalah to navigate your inner world. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805. *(See 12/2)*

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday*. *(See 12/2)*

Wednesday 10

Lunch and Learn: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin and Rabbi Blumenthal. Bring a dairy lunch, drinks and desserts provided. Noon.

"How to Keep Being a Parent, When Your Child Stops Being a Child:" JFS and Corner Health Center. Practical guide to parenting adolescents led by Nic Cooper, MA, EdD. Registration is required. RSVP to Lisa at 769-0209 or email lisa@jfsannarbor.org.

"Introduction to Judaism:" BIC. Taught by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. Class starts at 7:45 p.m. although students are encouraged to join the congregation for evening Ma'ariv service at 7:30 p.m. Free 12-session course.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. 7:30 p.m. With Roger Stutesman.

Thursday 11

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4/session or $10/3; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky. Contact Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for current book. 2:15 p.m.

Songs from Tin Pan Alley: JCC Seniors. Allison Pollock, MSW, Jewish Family Services geriatric social worker, will be available for discussion, questions and assistance at 12:30 p.m. She will be followed by a performance of *The Happiness Boys*, Don Devine and David Owens. These modern-day "boys" follow in the footsteps of the original *Happiness Boys*, Billy Jones and Ernest Hare, who were a famous Vaudeville duo of the 1920s and 1930s. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday. (See 12/4)*

Friday 12

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 13

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Human Rights Shabbat: BIC. Featuring Rabbi Dobrusin and Tamar Weaver reporting on *Rabbis for Human Rights Conference*. 9:30 a.m.

Final Frenzy Weekend: EMU Hillel. 10 a.m.–1 a.m. at EMU Hillel. Hillel will open on Saturday at 10 a.m. and stay open until Sunday at 1 a.m. for students to study and relax.

Chanukah Bazaar: TBE Sisterhood. 9 a.m.–2 p.m. *Also, December 14.*

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For tots aged 3–5 years old and parents. 11:15 a.m.

Kids' Night Out: JCC Youth. A fun monthly event for kids in grades K–5, featuring games, crafts, dinner and a movie. This month's movie is *Kung Fu Panda.* Cost for JCC members is $20 ($18 for additional siblings). Cost for non-members is $25 ($23 for additional siblings). Registration due by

December 11. For information, visit www.jccannarbor.org or email deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

Dance: Ann Arbor Temple Youth (AARTY): Dance at Temple Beth Emeth for all Jewish Ann Arbor High School students. $5/door. 7–10 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 14

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Chanukah Bazaar: JCS. Menorahs, jewelry, dreidels, books, games, crafts, candles, gift items, decorations, and more will be for sale from 10 a.m.–noon. In the JCC hallways.

Adult Education Class: JCS. Visit www.jewishculturalsociety.org for class details. Light refreshments and bagels will be served. 10–noon at the JCC.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Chanukah Gift Delivery: JFS. Deliver gifts to older adults in the community. Delivery will follow a bagel brunch and brief training. For information or to RSVP, contact Deborah Renner at 769-0209 or email Deborah@jfsannarbor.org.

Chocolate Making and Lunch: TBE Rishonim Youth Group. Chocolate making at Schakolad and lunch at Subway. $10. For information or to RSVP, email amorrison@templebethemeth.org or call 417-0417.

Chanukah Bazaar: TBE Sisterhood. 3–7 p.m.

Chanukah Concert: TBE. Annual concert featuring four choirs. 4 p.m.

"Who Decided Jews Can't Intermarry, Anyways?" BIC. Presented by Lisbeth S. Fried, PhD. 7:45 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 15

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing. (See 12/1)*

Learn Haftorah Trop: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose. Noon. *Every Monday.*

Text Study: BIC. "Jewish Perspectives on the Beginning and End of Time," led by Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE Sisterhood. Led by Cantor Annie Rose using the newly published WRJ Womens' Torah Commentary. 7:30–8:30 p.m. Afterwards, Cantor Rose will offer a 20-minute chapel meditation. *Also January 5 and 26.*

Tuesday 16

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367. *(See 12/2)*

Jewish Learning Institute: Fall semester class "Soul Maps," using Kabbalah to navigate your inner world. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

"Shulchan Aruch–Creating a New Guide to Jewish Living:" TBE. Last of three-part class taught by Rabbi Robert Levy. 7:30 p.m.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805. *(See 12/2)*

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday*. *(See 12/2)*

Wednesday 17

Lunch and Learn: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin and Rabbi Blumenthal. Bring a dairy lunch, drinks and desserts provided. Noon.

"Finding the Joy in Caregiving:" JFS. Focus on the subtle blessings and joys in caring for an aging parent. Discussion of new ways to view roles, as well as activities for enhancing time spent together. Presented by a guest expert followed by open discussion. RSVP to Abbie at 769-0209 or email abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

Meditation: TBE. 7:30 p.m. in the chapel.

Introduction to Judaism: BIC. Taught by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. Free 12-session class. Class starts at 7:45 p.m., however students are encouraged to join the congregation for Ma'ariv evening service at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 18

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

Intergenerational Chanukah Celebration: JCC Seniors. The children of the JCC-Early Childhood Center will perform a Chanukah play followed by a discussion of traditions and a craft project. Bring a menorah, dreidel or picture of a past Chanukah celebration to discuss with the children. 10:30 a.m. Holiday lunch including potato latkes at 11:30 a.m. Musical program featuring singer and pianist Rachel Kis at 12:30 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday. (See 12/4)*

Friday 19

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 20

Shabbat Limud: BIC. Shabbat Learning facilitated by Rabbi Dobrusin. Discussion of weekly Torah portion over coffee and cakes. 9 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 21

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Mussar Study Group: BIC. 9:45 a.m.

Chanukah Party: JCS. Parents and children, members and friends celebrate the holiday season together. Enjoy the festivities, view a special Chanukah play, share in JCS observance, sing, make crafts, and play games. 10 a.m.–noon at the JCC.

Chanukah Wonderland: Chabad. Opening day for holiday-long event. Today's special activity, "Learn to Make Latkes" at 4:30 p.m. Town Center Office Building, lower level, 500 East Washington Street. 11:30 a.m.–7 p.m. *Through December 29.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 22

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing. (See 12/1)*

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. Featuring fun field trips and special activities, plus crafts, games, and gym time or outdoor recess. The Winter Break Fun Days are for JCC members only in grades K–5. Middle school students may participate as helpers. Cost per day is $34 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. ($32 for additional siblings) and $8 for Extended Care from 4–6 p.m. Registration and payment due by December 19. For information or to register, visit www.jccannarbor.org or email deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. *Also December 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31 and January 2.*

Chanukah Wonderland: Chabad. Holiday-long all day event. Today's special activity, "Incredible John, the Balloon Baffoon" at 4:00 p.m. Town Center Office Building, lower level, 500 East Washington Street. 11:30 a.m.–7 p.m.

Tuesday 23

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367. *(See 12/2)*

Jewish Learning Institute: Fall semester class "Soul Maps," using Kabbalah to navigate your inner world. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See December 22.*

Chanukah Wonderland: Chabad. Holiday-long all day event. Today's special activity, "Chanukah Science Show with Lar the Science Guy" at 4:00 p.m. Town Center Office Building, lower level, 500 East Washington Street. 11:30 a.m.–7 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday*. *(See 12/2)*

Tot Chanukah Dinner: BIC. 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday 24

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See December 22.*

Chanukah Wonderland: Chabad. Holiday-long all day event. Today's special activity, "Chinese Chanukah" features a Chinese dinner followed by activities for kids and an enriching program for adults. Dinner is $10 per person; $30 for a family. 5:15 p.m. Town Center Office Building, lower level, 500 East Washington Street. 10 a.m.–7 p.m.

Thursday 25

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

Chanukah Wonderland: Chabad. Holiday-long all day event. Today's special activity, "Chanukah Science Show with Lar the Science Guy" at 4:00 p.m. Town Center Office Building, lower level, 500 East Washington Street. 11:30 a.m.–7 p.m.

Movie: TBE. *Shrek* will be shown at the Michigan Theater. Doors open at 10 a.m., movie begins at 10:30 a.m. Concessions and snacks for sale. Door prizes. Admission is $6 in advance or at the door.

Motor Meals Delivery: JFS. Members of the Jewish community take over the Motor Meals delivery for Christmas Day. Families and groups are welcome. Meet at Motor Meals office, receive training and deliver meals in their own vehicles. For information or to RSVP, contact Deborah Renner at 769-0209 or email Deborah@jfsannarbor.org.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday. (See 12/4)*

Friday 26

Chanukah Wonderland: Chabad. Holiday-long all day event. Today's special activity, "Challah Baking and Shabbat Singalong" at 10:30 a.m. Town Center Office Building, lower level, 500 East Washington Street. 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See December 22.*

Shabbat Chanukah Celebration: TBE. Latke dinner at 6 p.m. $12.50/adults; $5/children 10 and under. Shabbat service at 7:30 p.m. Bring menorah and candles. RSVP for dinner in advance at 665-4744.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 27

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Chanukah Wonderland: Chabad. Holiday-long event. Today's special activity is "Saturday Night Live." Town Center Office Building, lower level, 500 East Washington Street. 7–10 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 28

Chanukah Wonderland: Chabad. Holiday-long all day event. Today's special activity, "Magical Chanukah" at 4:00 p.m. Town Center Office Building, lower level, 500 East Washington Street. 10 a.m.–7 p.m.

Chanukah Latke Party: Chabad. Annual celebration with potato latkes by Mila. Witness lighting of the largest outdoor Chanukah menorah in Washtenaw County. 8 p.m.

Monday 29

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing. (See 12/1)*

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See December 22.*

Chanukah Wonderland: Chabad. Holiday-long all day event. Today's special activity, "Chanukah in Lego Land" at 12:30 p.m. Town Center Office Building, lower level, 500 East Washington Street. 10 a.m.–7 p.m.

Text Study: BIC. "Jewish Perspectives on the Beginning and End of Time." With Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 30

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367. *(See 12/2)*

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday*. *(See 12/2)*

Jewish Learning Institute: Fall semester class "Soul Maps," using Kabbalah to navigate your inner world. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See December 22.*

Wednesday 31

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See December 22.*

January 2009

Thursday 1

Friday 2

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC. 8 a.m.–6 p.m. *See December 22.*

First Friday Shabbat: JCS. This year's theme is Local Ann Arbor. Each month features a different place from around town, focusing on local favorites, locally owned businesses and locally grown foods. Begins at 6:30 p.m. Held in the lounges of the JCC. Dinner is $10/person or $25/family of 4. RSVP at www.jewishculturalsociety.org to ensure enough food. 6:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 3

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services*: See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 4

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday*.

Monday 5

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing. (See 12/1)*

Learn Haftorah Trop: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose. Noon.

Torah Study: TBE Sisterhood. Led by Cantor Annie Rose using the newly published WRJ Womens' Torah Commentary. 7:30–8:30 p.m. Afterwards, Cantor Rose will offer a 20-minute chapel meditation. *Also January 26.*

Tuesday 6

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Blood Pressure Clinic: JCC Seniors. A registered nurse from Care Response will take blood pressures, record them, and address any questions. 1 p.m. *First Tuesday each month.*

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367. *(See 12/2)*

Jewish Learning Institute: Fall semester class "Soul Maps," using Kabbalah to navigate your inner world. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.(See 12/2)*

Wednesday 7

Board Meeting: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Introduction to Judaism: BIC. Taught by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. Free twelve-session class. Class starts at 7:45 p.m., however students are encouraged to join the congregation for Ma'ariv evening service at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 8

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (see today's JCC Book Festival event), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Birthdays and Kelsey Museum Preview: JCC Seniors. Celebration for all with birthdays in December. Friends and family welcome to join for lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m., followed by presentation by Suzanne Davis and Claudia Camello, conservators at the UM Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday. (See 12/4)*

Friday 9

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Italian Style Dinner: BIC. Traditional style Friday night dinner at 7 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 10

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat Limud: BIC. Shabbat Learning session facilitated by Rabbi Dobrusin. Discussion of weekly Torah portion with cakes and coffee provided. 9 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For tots ages 3–5 years old and parents. 11:15 a.m.

Shabbat services*: See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 11

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch: BIC. For those involved with the Mitzvah Connection, Alpha House and Overnight Shelter. 10 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.* (see 1/4)

Bowling and Pizza: TBE Rishonim Youth. Bowling at Colonial Lanes. $10. For information or to RSVP, contact Abe by email at amorrison@templebethemeth.org or call 417-0417. 1 p.m.

Bake and Take: TBE Sisterhood. Come to the TBE kitchen and help bake and stock up the freezer for coming onegs and bring some goodies home for your family. 6–7:30 p.m.

Lilith Salon: TBE Sisterhood. Built on European style discussion forums for Jewish Women, these salons offer the opportunity to have interesting discussion on female Jewish topics. *Lilith* is a quarterly Jewish Feminist journal. The *Lilith* website is www.lilith.org. 7:30 p.m. at TBE Adult Lounge. Contact Jennifer Hackel, jmerritt@med.umich.edu, for more information

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday*.

Monday 12

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing. (See 12/1)*

Learn Haftorah Trop: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose. Noon.

Text Study: BIC. "Jewish Perspectives on the Beginning and End of Time," led by Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 13

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367. *(See 12/2)*

Game Night: TBE. Learn mahjong, bridge, and card games. For information, contact Martha Young. 7:30 p.m.

Jewish Learning Institute: Fall semester class "Soul Maps," using Kabbalah to navigate your inner world. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday*. *(See 12/2)*

Wednesday 14

Lunch and Learn: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin and Rabbi Blumenthal. Bring a dairy lunch, drinks and desserts provided. Noon.

Open House: Hebrew Day School. For prospective parents. Learn about Hebrew Day School's academic and Judaic/Hebrew full-day program for Kindergarten–Grade five. For more information or to RSVP, email Abby Weinberg at aweinberg@hdsaa.org or call 971-4633.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. 7:30 p.m. Led by Roger Stutesman.

Introduction to Judaism: BIC. Taught by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. Free 12-session class. Class starts at 7:45 p.m., however students are encouraged to join the congregation for Ma'ariv evening service at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 15

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4/session or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky. Contact Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for current book. 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Israeli Political Update: JCC Seniors. Allison Pollock, MSW, JFS Geriatric Social Worker, will be available for discussion, questions and assistance at 12:30 p.m. followed at 1 p.m. by Daniel Zaken, Israeli journalist and UM Wallace Fellow, to discuss Israeli politics.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday. (See 12/4)*

Friday 16

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 17

Making up with Mom: TBE Sisterhood. Author Julie Halpert will discuss her book *Making up with Mom; Why Mothers and Daughters Disagree About Kids, Career, and Casseroles (and what to do about it)*. 8:45–10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.–12.30 p.m. at TBE. Both sessions start right after religious school sessions start.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women:

Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. one hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 18

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Parent Program: TBE Religious School and TBE Sisterhood. Conversation with author Julie Halpert on her newly relaeased book, *Making Up With Mom.* Two sessions, 8:45–10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Program in classroom area core during religious school.

"Women and Modern Jewish Ritual:" BIC. Led by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. 9:30 a.m.

Schmooze: JCS. Opportunity to learn and discuss issues that relate to Jewish identity, culture and community. Light refreshments and bagels served. 10 a.m. at the JCC.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 19

School's Out/JCC's In: JCC Youth. Program for JCC members only in grades K–5. Middle school students are welcome to participate as helpers. Participants will take part in the JCC's community-wide Social Action Day event in the afternoon in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. $34 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. ($32 for additional siblings) and $8 for Extended Care from 4–6 p.m. Registration due by January 15. For information or to register, visit www.jccannarbor.org or email Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or call 971-0990.

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing. (See 12/1)*

Torah Study: TBE Sisterhood. With Cantor Annie Rose. 7:30 p.m.

Text Study: BIC. "Jewish Perspectives on the Beginning and End of Time." With Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 20

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367. *(See 12/2)*

Jewish Learning Institute: Fall semester class "Soul Maps," using Kabbalah to navigate your inner world. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussions in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday*. *(See 12/2)*

Wednesday 21

Lunch and Learn: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin and Rabbi Blumenthal. Bring a dairy lunch, drinks and desserts provided. Noon.

Bake and Take: TBE Sisterhood. Come to the TBE kitchen and help bake and stock up the freezer for coming onegs and bring some goodies home for your family. 4:15–6 p.m.

Introduction to Judaism: BIC. Taught by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. Free twelve-session class. Class starts at 7:45 p.m., however students are encouraged to join the congregation for Ma'ariv evening service at 7:30 p.m.

Meditation: TBE. 7:30 p.m. in the chapel.

Thursday 22

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4/session or $10/3; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky. Contact Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for current book. 2:15 p.m.

Winter Preparedness: JCC Seniors. Speaker from Washtenaw Red Cross discusses winter preparedness. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday. (See 12/4)*

Friday 23

Meditation: TBE. 1 p.m. in the chapel.

Shabbat Service: TBE. With scholar-in-residence Professor Deborah Dash Moore. 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 24

Shabbat Limud: BIC. Shabbat Learning session facilitated by Rabbi Dobrusin. Discussion of weekly Torah portion with cakes and coffee provided. 9 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical di-

Shabbat Candlelighting

December 5	4:45 p.m.
December 12	4:45 p.m.
December 19	4:47 p.m.
December 26	4:51 p.m.
January 2	4:56 p.m.
January 9	5:03 p.m.
January 16	5:10 p.m.
January 23	5:19 p.m.
January 30	5:28 p.m.

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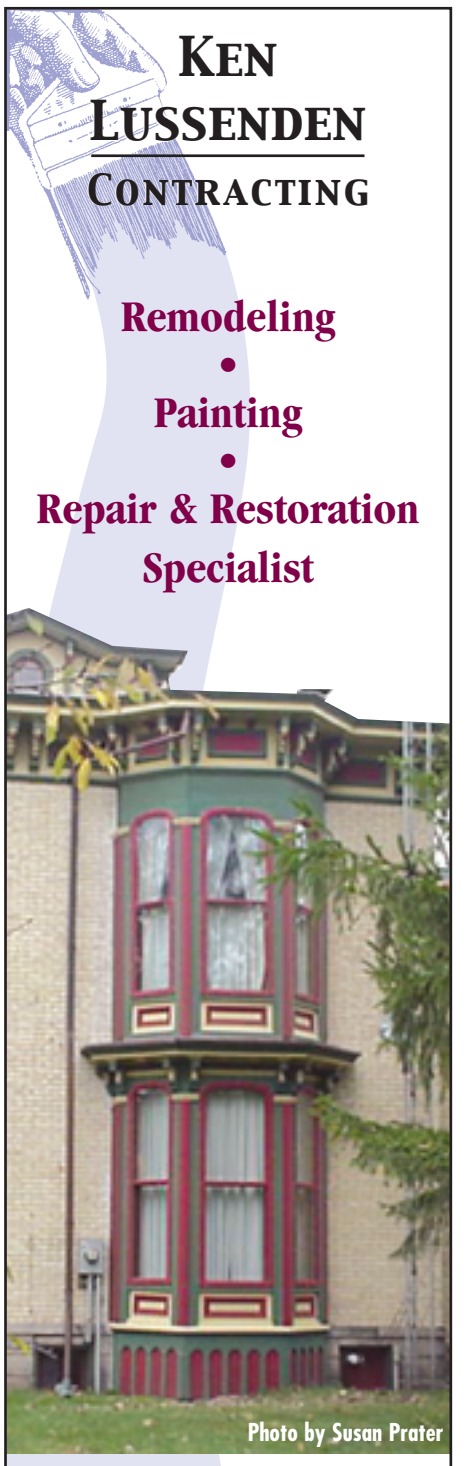

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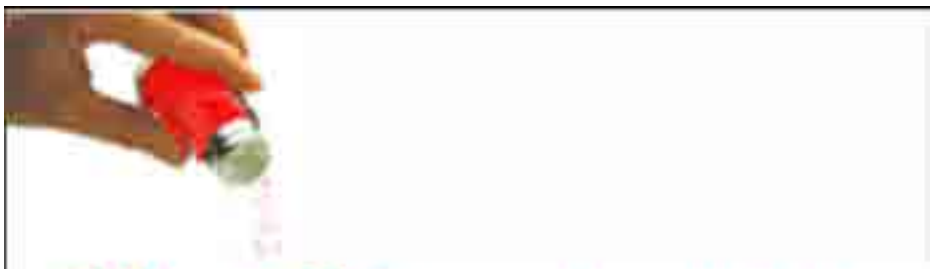

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mensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Annual Quiz Night: BIC. Multi-media competition, pitting tables of up to ten contestants competing for prizes on trivia questions. 7 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of tcalendar.*

Sunday 25

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Adult Education Class: Jewish Cultural Society. Guest speakers and discussions. Light refreshments and bagels will be served. 10 a.m.–noon. For updated class details, visit www.jewishculturalsociety.org.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Learn Haftorah Trop: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose. Noon.

Rosh Hodesh Group: Jewish Cultural Society. 6 p.m. Contact jgales@mindspring.com for details or visit www.jewishculturalsociety.org.

"Role of Jews in American Politics:" TBE. Scholar-in-Residence talk by Professor Deborah Dash Moore. 6-7:30 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 26

Text Study: BIC. "Jewish Perspectives on the Beginning and End of Time." With Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE Sisterhood. Led by Cantor Annie Rose using the newly published WRJ Womens' Torah Commentary. 7:30–8:30 p.m. Afterwards, Cantor Rose will offer a 20-minute chapel meditation.

Tuesday 27

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367. *(See 12/2)*

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday*. *(See 12/2)*

Jewish Learning Institute: Fall semester class "Soul Maps," using Kabbalah to navigate your inner world. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805. *(See 12/2))*

Wednesday 28

Lunch and Learn: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin and Rabbi Blumenthal. Bring a dairy lunch, drinks and desserts provided. Noon.

Busy Women's Lunch: TBE Sisterhood. Meet at Weber's for lunch among friends. RSVP to Shirley Harkless at 994-1104 or Sandy Harlacher, sandra.harlacher@siemens.com. 11:45 a.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Led by Roger Stutesman. 7:30 p.m.

Introduction to Judaism: BIC. Taught by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. Free twelve-session class. Class starts at 7:45 p.m., however students are encouraged to join the congregation for Ma'ariv evening service at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 29

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4/session or $10/3; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky. Contact Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for current book. 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Musical Presentation: JCC Seniors. Local musician and pianist Mario Jonette, by way of Romania and other European countries, performs classical music, popular standards and jazz. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday. (See 12/4)*

Friday 30

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar*

Saturday 31

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. one hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 in advance for times.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m.; Shira: Family Shabbat in Song at 6:45 p.m.; Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. 6:15 PM at the JCC the last Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Tot Shabbat with optional kid's pizza dinner at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 913-9705, email info@aarecon.org or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candle-lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services and classes

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Ma'ariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvor Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. Home hospitality available for Shabbat and meals. UM Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m.; 6 p.m. Mincha. Morning childcare from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Havurah. Discussion-based format with topics changing monthly. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study at 8:50 a.m. Chapel Service at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and *yom tov* (Jewish holiday). Call 995-3276 in advance.

"Mystical Insights to the Torah:" Chabad. For women to learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. Saturday, one hour before sundown. Call 995-3276.

"Laws of Shabbat—Jewish Ethics:" Chabad. Study group examines the code of law for Shabbat and Jewish ethics. Saturday, 1/2 hour before sundown. Call 995-3276.

Phone numbers and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah (AARH)
P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

'Next Gen,' from page 16

world," the chair of the UJC's executive committee, Kathy Manning, said. "Today's Jewish philanthropists have many, many more choices and they have many non-Jewish organizations who are doing everything they can to get Jewish dollars. So we have to work a little bit harder to get the next generation of Jews to be interested in being part of our Jewish philanthropic world."

It's clear that in some cases federation leaders have an uphill climb in familiarizing young Jews with their organizations.

On a site visit to the headquarters of the Israeli pharmaceutical giant Teva, many of those interviewed by JTA were unfamiliar with the UJC or its overseas arms, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Israel. Several admitted that they did not know what a G.A. was, and were in attendance only because their programs recruited them. The UJC acknowledges the problem, but officials say that they are working on new ways to teach younger generations about the work the federation system does – because old tactics simply are not working.

"You didn't see that the day started with, 'Let's take you through the alphabet soup of what you are going to do for the next four days," Danyelle Neuman, the UJC's director of "Next Gen" initiatives. UJC decided that the day "would be about capitalizing on the opportunity of the G.A., using the G.A. to bring people together. Not necessarily inundating them with the federation system, but to say that we were the convener of the day."

The day was not without its glitches.

Some participants openly questioned why the programming started off with an event at the memorial for the Holocaust—an approach that some observers say is becoming a turnoff to younger generations of Jews.

"Some people I spoke with thought it was weird for them or maybe it's a little bit tasteless," said Noa Frielich, a 24-year-old student at Ben-Gurion University who attended the program through the Hillel chapter there. "But I think it is a good bonding experience, remembering the past and doing something for the future. For me it is very symbolic."

The UJC acknowledges that it has a long way to go, according to Neuman, who started at the organization eight months ago. "I'm not sure the UJC ever sat down and said, 'We need to sit down and have a strategy for next gen,'" she said. "They had young leadership and young leadership cabinet, so they certainly were involved in reaching out to the next generation, but not as a strategy. We didn't say both, 'How do we structure ourselves and encourage the federations to look at themselves' and 'What is missing in the field; what are we doing; how do we capitalize on that?'"

Several participants said that overall this year's G.A. seemed like a solid second step in reaching out to younger generations, following up on last year's efforts. And, according to some participants, these efforts are well-timed, coming at a time when young Jews are starting to think about assuming leadership roles in various worlds that they operate in.

"I think we don't appreciate ourselves as much as we should," said Frielich, one of several Israeli participants. "We are not the Next Gen, we are the current leaders. Maybe some of the people who are current leaders, to them it doesn't make sense, or they can't believe it that we are the current leaders and we have the power to do things. But I see it now in the States with the elections. I see it now in Israel. A lot of young people just won their municipality elections. I feel the spirit of change. It's a lot because of the people that came here today." ■

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Local holiday shopping

David Erik Nelson, staff writer

There are good reasons to keep your holiday shopping local, from saving gas, to pouring dollars into the local economy, or simply enjoying our community. While every Friday until December 19 is a "Festive Friday" on Main Street in Ann Arbor, December 5 is also Midnight Madness: Stroll under the twinkly white lights, enjoy a variety of street performers, and take advantage of good deals and hospitality from downtown merchants.

Lauren Metzendorf and Shelley Stern have reopened **Thredz Boutique** (318 S. Ashley St., 369-8363) in a converted Victorian home just west of Main St. Metzendorf and Stern have a warm rapport with their customers, and specialize in finding that just-right garment, jewelry item, or accessory for a woman who enjoys unique, fashionable clothes for work and play. **Bivouac** (336 S. State St.; 761-6207) will likewise participate in Midnight Madness. Although most shoppers associate **Bivouac** with technical camping gear and Michigan wintertime essentials—gloves, scarves, hats, and coats—owner Ed Davidson points out a few other popular holiday gifts, such as large purses and handbags, and the Kiehl's line of body products. A major draw for shoppers is **Bivouac's** generous price-matching policy; Davidson explains that "we match all prices, any time, item for item," even those posted by online-only retailers like Amazon.com. Just bring in the ad or web page (they'll even look up an online ad for you, if you forget to print it out), and **Bivouac** will honor that price.

Farther afield, **Lewis Jewelers** (2000 W. Stadium, 994-5111) offers many highly sought-after designer jewelry brands, such as Hearts on Fire, Roberto Coin, Gregg Ruth, Tacori, and 15 different brands of designer watches. Sales abound throughout the season, with much of their stock marked down 20 to 50 percent. For gift ideas, manager Jonathan Farnsworth suggests Pandora jewelry. These are a modern, more fashionable twist on the charm bracelet. Beads and bangles are purchased individually, and screw on to the threaded gold or sterling silver bracelet. Danish jewelers are constantly designing new beads, spanning a wide variety of occasions, motifs, materials, colors, and price ranges. Farnsworth notes that "It's a great gift-giving idea … very affordable, in the jewelry world, [and] once it gets done it looks like a really nice piece of jewelry, and at the same time has meaning and purpose."

For last-minute shoppers, **Georgetown Gifts** (3215 Washtenaw Ave., formerly at Georgetown Plaza, 971-1068) is your salvation. **Georgetown Gifts** doesn't just have a plethora of holiday cards and small gifts—mugs and candles, Melissa and Doug wooden toys for toddlers, and Webkinz for older kids—but also a full-service post office. Since they are conveniently situated between perennial gift-card favorites like Panera, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, and Whole Foods Market, this is a good salve for last-minute panic.

The gift-giving season tends to leave most folks with full closets and thin wallets. A good single-stop for both problems is **iSoldIt** (869B W. Eisenhower Pkwy., 761-6187). This consignment store sells items using the online auction house eBay, and handles just about anything, common or collectible: clothes, toys, electronics, auto parts, appliances, furniture, et al. Owner Carol Kamm notes that "Now is a hot time on eBay … the economy is terrible, but it's also a great opportunity. Buyers are on eBay looking for bargains." **iSoldIt** sells the vast majority of their wares via 7-day open auctions, splitting the proceeds with the consignee. For a given auction, **iSoldIt** takes a 40 percent cut from the first $500 of the final bid, with the consignee's cut gradually increasing on larger sales. All fees associated with the auction and processing payment are taken from **iSoldIt's** cut of the earnings. **iSoldIt** will research the salability and likely final bid for a consignee's items free of charge and without obligation. In general, **iSoldIt** only accepts items that will have a minimum final bid of $60.

Since books sell poorly on eBay, **iSoldIt** has partnered with **Books by Chance** (www.booksbychance.com, info@booksbychance.com). This high-volume consignment bookseller is most interested in very common books, one-time bestsellers, CDs, and DVDs, but not antique or collectible volumes. As such, **Page Avenue Books** (page.books@yahoo.com) is a perfect compliment. Like most used-book sellers, **Page Avenue** is very interested in collectibles, as well as hard-bound nonfiction, and tends to avoid popular fiction and best-sellers. **Page Avenue** will buy clean, undamaged books outright, usually by the box. Sellers can expect $4 or $5 per box in immediate cash. In either case, encyclopedias, romance novels, *Reader's Digest* condensed books, and anything soiled or damaged need not apply. ■

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Vitals

Mazel Tov

Emilie Weisberg on her bat mitzvah, December 6.
Scott Lieberman on his bar mitzvah, December 6.
Benjamin Shapiro on his bar mitzvah, December 6.
Tuval Vaknin on his bar mitzvah, December 20.
David Hankin in his bar mitzvah, January 31.
Mark and Sharon Weiner on the birth of their twins, Shayna and Aaron Moses, on September 22.
Jason and Rachel Robinson on the birth of their son, Benjamin Jacob Robinson, also grandson of Carol and Joseph Brown.
Gilla and Ami Wiesel on the birth of their daughter Ayelet.

Condolences

Jodi Wallo on the death of her great uncle, David Vanek, October 10.
Lolita Fisher on the death of her husband, Robert, October 14.
Lisa Ensfield on the death of her aunt, Hinda Burchman, October 23.
Steven Russman and sons Daniel and David, on the death of their wife and mother, Rochelle Kostant, November 8.
Arthur Riba on the death of his brother, Leonard Riba.

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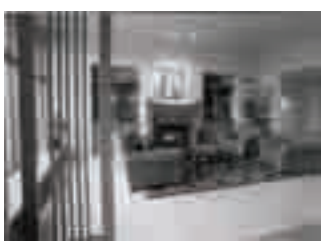

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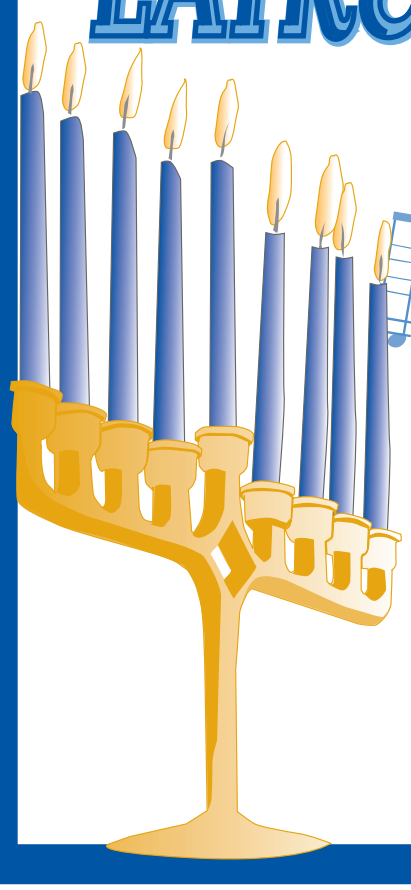

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